

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, April 25, 2013

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Baggies build

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Police get powers to stop town drinkers

POLICE have been granted new powers to seize alcohol and ban drinking in the streets around Quarry Bank in a bid to stamp out booze-fueled crimes and anti-social behaviour.

Residents and traders raised concerns with police about people drinking in the town centre and demanded rules be brought to curb the problem.

New laws have been ratified to bring in a Designated Public Places Order, which enforces the ban making on-street drinking illegal.

Councillors welcomed the move saying it was important to protect the town's image.

Police officers and police community support officers can ask anyone believed to be consuming alcohol leading to anti-social behaviour to stop drinking and issue a £50 fixed-penalty notice.

Neighbourhood Sgt Duncan Rudge said police applied for the ban after hearing residents' concerns.

Dudley Council's licensing committee chairman, Councillor Hilary Bills, added: "The licensing and safety committee has wholeheartedly backed the application."

Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood Councillor Bryan Cotterill said: "We want to protect the image of Quarry Bank."

There are already alcohol-free zones in Halesowen, Stourbridge and Dudley.

Crackdown hits rogues

A CRACKDOWN on rogue traders and bogus callers targeting vulnerable residents across Dudley has led to a 14 per cent fall in reported crimes in the past 12 months.

Trading standards officials said they were "reaping the rewards" of a campaign aimed at deterring would-be rogue traders. Police said they will continue to work alongside Dudley Council to continue the progress.

Hotspots targeted, including Halesowen, have been the focus for crime prevention teams.

Metal thieves spent all weekend taking away haul

A GANG of thieves stole 112 tons of steel worth £81,000 during a raid that lasted 36 hours at a Kingswinford firm, a court heard.

Three of those responsible for the burglary have received jail sentences totalling almost 10 years and a metal merchant to whom part of the haul was delivered has been locked up for two years.

The crooks struck "within minutes" of Midland Steel Sections, on the Gibbons Industrial Estate, closing for the weekend and then took 36 hours to complete the theft, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

It appeared to be an "inside job" with no damage caused during the break in and the burglars knowing where keys were kept, it was said. They ignored less valuable metal and used the company's overhead crane as well as two of its lorries to remove the haul.

Mr Darron Whitehead, prosecuting, concluded: "It started within minutes of the gates to the targeted premises being closed for the weekend."

The two stolen trucks were used to make five trips loaded with the steel during the weekend of March 26 and 27 2011, the court

heard. Around 63 tons of the haul, valued at £34,000, was delivered to the Oldbury Metal Recycling plant run by Lee Stanley in Parsonage Street, Oldbury, where it was discovered hidden under scrap metal by police after a tip off a couple of days after the raid.

He had paid £12,000 for it, the court was told. A further 47 tons worth £34,000 was found in Manchester and traced back to EMR, Wolverhampton, which had bought it from Jarvis Metals, a scrap yard run by Joe Jarvis and his family in Shrewsbury where it had been dropped off by the gang. He

admitted making £1,000 profit. Police recovered all but two of the 112 tons.

Mr Gareth Morley, defending, said: "They behaved with insouciance, coming and going as they pleased over a 36 hour period."

Paul Hawkins, from Sedgley, who was the "go between" for the gang; Jamie Anslow, of Tenbury Wells; Nicholas Tawse, Newark, Notts, and Lee Stanley, of Coseley were jailed. Jarvis, from Shrewsbury, was given a suspended jail sentence. Jonathan Bates, from Coseley, who was convicted conspiracy to burgle, will be sentenced next month.

Players to attend funeral of ex-kitman

FORMER players are expected to attend the funeral of ex-West Bromwich Albion kitman Dave Matthews.

It will be held at noon on May 1 at St John the Baptist Church, High Street, Halesowen.

Players from the past five decades are expected to attend to pay their respects to the popular father-of-two, who died on April 14 at his home in Halesowen.

The service will be followed by a private interment for Mr Matthews' family and friends and colleagues are invited to join relatives for a wake at The Hawthorns later.

Mr Matthews died at the age of 67, less than a year after returning following 51 years with the Baggies.

He was in remission after suffering from Non-Hodgkin lymphoma but had been diagnosed with a rare heart condition.

Fans held a minute's applause in his honour at Saturday's 1-1 draw at home to Newcastle in the Premier League.

Before the game sporting and technical director Richard Garlick said: "Dave gave the club incredible service and it is only fitting that we honour him in this manner."

Albion legend Cyrille Regis said: "In many ways Dave was 'Mr Albion'."

Mr Matthews leaves wife, Carol, and daughters Alison and Clare.

Town brought to a standstill

A FIRE that ripped through a Halesowen restaurant brought the town centre to a standstill. Roads were closed as emergency crews tackled the blaze at the Bangla Lounge, High Street.

Bus routes were diverted as police shut routes, including the Queensway. Shoppers were kept behind a cordon after the fire started at the Indian restaurant just after 8am on Thursday. Around 25 firefighters tackled the blaze as flames burst through the roof.

NHS CHIEF TO LEAD PROBE AT HOSPITAL

Canal festival to make its comeback



Jon Jones and Pat Walker get ready for the Combeswood Canal Trust's open weekend at Hawne Basin

A MUCH-MISSED annual canal festival is returning to its home at Hawne Basin, Halesowen, after a years absence.

The Combeswood Canal Trust has taken the decision to revive their free open weekend this year and will allow members of the public into the historic

location in Hereward Rise. Beginning on Saturday, May 18, the two-day event will feature a real ale bar, traditional canal crafts stall, Waterways Society displays, activities and games.

Entertainment will be provided by Appalachian Dancers, the Blackwell Band, the Bobby Johnson Band and

more along with boat trips running into the Gosty Hill Tunnel.

Guest will also be able to learn more about the trusts involvement in promoting the use, improvement and retention of the Dudley No 2 Canal.

For more information visit www.hawnebasin.org.uk

INVESTIGATORS led by the NHS Medical Director will visit Russells Hall Hospital as part of a probe following concerns over high death rates.

Sir Bruce Keogh launched the investigation into death rates at the hospital after they were found to be higher than the national average.

It came in the wake of damning revelations into failings at Stafford Hospital following the publication of the Francis Report.

Russells Hall, under the management of Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, is one of 14 in the country being investigated.

Contact

Dudley North MP Ian Austin met Sir Bruce in Westminster this week to present a dossier which detailed patients experiences of treatment at the hospital.

Mr Austin asked patients to get in contact detailing their treatment at the hospital to give Sir Keogh an insight into their time on the wards.

"Like everyone in Dudley, when there is something wrong with me or my family, we queue at Russells Hall," he said.

"I think staff at the hospital work really hard but I am concerned to hear the hospi-

by Andrew Turton

tal will be reviewed because it has mortality rates that are significantly higher than the UK average."

He said he was pleased Sir Bruce had agreed to come to Dudley to hear from patients and their families.

"Many people told me shortcomings in care for their relatives stemmed from over-stretched nurses, and I want Bruce Keogh to look at whether staffing levels at the hospital are adequate," Mr Austin added.

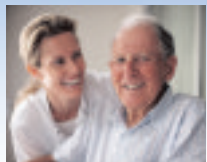
"If problems are identified, they need to be put right."

Trust chief executive Paula Clark has defended its record but welcomed the investigation to give "further reassurance" to patients.

The number of patient deaths at the hospital in 2011-12 was above expected levels.

The hospital standardised mortality rating was 111.1 between April 2011 and March 2012. The expected level is 100.

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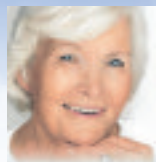
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Bishop's tribute to miners' minister



The Rev Tony Attwood

A RETIRED Dudley vicar who ministered to Yorkshire miners at the height of Margaret Thatcher's battle with the unions has died, aged 65. The Bishop of Dudley has led tributes to the Rev Tony Attwood. He was priest in charge of Dudley's Top Church for seven years but who, two decades earlier, was in the thick of the miners' strike.

He manned soup kitchens for the miners and their families in Maltby, and was even chased by police dogs in one clash. Bishop

of Dudley, the Rt Rev David Walker, who took over his job in Maltby in 1986, described him as "a priest who ministered bravely for and among miners of Maltby during the 1984-5 strike" and said his colleague had "died suddenly and far too young".

The bishop added: "I've known and respected Tony for nearly 30 years, since we were colleagues together in Yorkshire."

"His reputation there was sealed when, making a pastoral visit to a picket line one night, he was chased through the woods by

police dogs. If there's a queue outside the pearly gates this week, then I'm sure he and Margaret Thatcher will be passing the time in a vigorous and challenging debate".

Mr Attwood, who originally trained as an economist, was ordained a deacon in 1972 and priest the following year. He became priest at St Barnabas, Russells Hall, and St Thomas and St Luke (Top Church) in 2003 and retired seven years later.

He leaves a daughter and son and four grandchildren.

TA sees sign-up interest increase

DOZENS of people have signed up to a Territorial Army unit which now faces an uncertain future.

Army bosses said they were pleased the recruitment drive for the Dudley-based Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry was so successful with 50 people applying to join the unit.

A campaign was launched locally as part of a nationwide bid to boost reservist numbers to 30,000 in the next five years.

But just weeks after it started it was revealed the regiment could be split up with the loss of around 100 soldiers in the Midlands.

Eighty people attended the two open evenings at the Vicar Street centre, and 50 have since applied to join.

Among hoping to join is Mark Evans, aged 39, from Rowley Regis.

The classroom assistant at Grace Mary Primary School, Tividale, was in the RAF. He also served with West Midlands Police for nine years and also for British Transport Police but missed the military.

He said: "I am hoping to become a trooper or a medic."

Safety help for elderly

A SERVICE which works to keep older people in the Dudley borough safe and well will be visiting Sedgley.

Living Well Feeling Safe, in a partnership between Dudley Council, Age UK, West Midlands Police, Victim Support and West Midlands Fire Service.

Staff will visit homes on April 29 and 30 to give advice, tips and practical help on home safety and security alongside keeping comfortable, happy, independent and well. A drop-in service will also be available at Sedgley and District Community Association, Ladies Walk, Sedgley on May 3, from 10am until 3pm.

The service can be contacted on 01384 817743.

Factory fan fire

A SMALL fire broke out in an extractor fan at a Halesowen factory unit that makes display units and shop interiors. Firefighters were called when smoke was seen spewing from T&E Display Group, Mucklow Hill, at 6.30am on Saturday.

Driver who was drunk reversed into police van

A DRUNK mother-of-three reversed into a police dog van at 20 mph in a BMW X5 just days after appearing in court accused of failing to provide a breath test.

Banned motorist Emma Cowdell, from Kingswinford, had already driven through red lights, travelled on the wrong side of the road and been speeding in her mother's car which had been taken without permission. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Police kept their distance because of concerns over the amount she had drunk and her state of mind, Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said.

Glassware awards to honour best of borough

STUNNING glassware has been handcrafted for the winners of the Mayor of Dudley's civic awards at a Kingswinford museum.

The specially commissioned pieces had been made by renowned artist Allister Malcolm at Broadfield House Glass Museum.

They will be presented to the winners and runners-up in the five categories while a special one-off piece for the winner of the mayor's award.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram said: "These are unique prizes for some very special people. It is hugely important to celebrate the work of the people who make our communities tick. I'm looking forward to presenting this glassware to them and speaking to them more about their work."

The ceremony will take place tomorrow (Friday) at Dudley Town Hall.

There have been more than 120 nominations for the five categories: art, sport, education, community spirit and environment.

WPC Marie Darby then saw the car at the Dawley Trading Estate, Stallings Lane, Kingswinford with its lights on and engine running around 4am on March 5, the court heard last week.

She stopped a safe distance away, but it was deliberately reversed into her van at 20mph causing £4,000 damage, Mr Rees said.

WPC Darby said in a statement: "I braced myself and there was hard impact. I was shaken at the speed the BMW had been going."

The 43-year-old, Standhills Road, drove off and was arrested walking down The Portway. A test showed 43 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath while the legal limit is 35.

Issues

She had taken the car following a row with her husband, the court heard. He was concerned because he knew his wife had been drinking.

Cowdell, who had never held a driving licence, had received a 17-month driving banned in February for failing to produce a breath test.

Miss Nicole Steers, defending, said Cowdell had a drink problem and psychiatric issues.

She pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicle taking, dangerous driving, drink-driving, driving while banned and having no insurance.

She received a 14-month jail term suspended for two years with £500 compensation with £250 costs and banned for three years.

Suzie-May leaps back to school



Suzie-May Aston, centre, enjoys her first full day back at school after months away getting a bone marrow transplant, with school friends Lucy Bossons, Evie Graham, Jessica Garbett and Georgia Gould

IT has been a long road back to school for little Suzie-May Aston.

The seven-year-old has been fighting a rare form of anaemia which required a bone marrow transplant and this week she spent her first full day back at school after a two-year battle.

Suzie-May, of Ludlow Way, Dudley, became ill in March 2011 but it took more than a dozen blood transfusions before doctors at Birmingham Children's Hospital diagnosed refractory anaemia.

Her mother Jo, aged 44, said: "It has been a very difficult two years but she has faced it all with tremendous strength and determination."

Suzie-May attends Milking Bank Primary School, Aintree Way. Doctors told Mrs Aston and her husband Martin, aged 46, that Suzie-May's bone marrow had

effectively stopped working and she needed a marrow transplant.

But her older brother William, now 14, was not a match. Months later a donor was eventually found in Germany and she received the transplant almost a year later. During her lengthy recovery Dudley Council supplied specialist tutor Rachel Kulyk, to visit for an hour daily.

She added: "They worked with the school and it kept Suzie-May on track."

In February Suzie-May returned to school for small periods during the day.

Mrs Aston, an education area manager, said: "She was so excited about her first day back. They take good care of her there and her classmates are fussing over her."

Milking Bank head Richard Mason said: "Everyone has welcomed her back. The family has been through a lot."

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Machine is stolen from pub

THE boss of a Black Country pub has spoken of his shock after a thief raided the men's toilets - for a machine selling £3 packs of herbal viagra.

The thief struck on ladies' night and is believed to have kicked the machine off the wall at the Britannia pub in High Street, Wollaston before making a dash down the street with it in a plastic bag.

Landlord Wayne Etheridge said in his 25 years of working in the pub trade he's never known anything like it. The machine had only been in place for three weeks.

The 43-year-old said he had suspicions something was up when a member of staff claimed they had seen a man running down the street away from the pub. A quick inspection of the premises found nothing obvious but it was only 90 minutes later when the landlord went into the men's toilets he saw damage to his wall. It has left the pub facing a bill of more than £150 with Mr Etheridge claiming the takings from the machine would be no more than £30.

A 38-year-old man has since been arrested and bailed pending enquiries.

Metal thief sent to jail

A METAL thief caught stealing copper piping from a house in Dudley has been jailed for three years.

Martin Bennett, aged 24, of Gresham Road, Oldbury, was arrested on February 5 in Russell Street, after neighbours heard banging and sawing noises coming from the empty property.

Police saw him and another man climb out of a back window onto a flat roof. Bennett was sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court last week after being found guilty of burglary. A large amount of damage was caused when radiators were ripped off for the piping.

Following the sentencing, Pc Nick Slyn from Dudley Local Policing Unit said: "This arrest came about thanks to a quick-witted member of the public."

Scheme for safety

A NOTORIOUS accident blackspot in Kidderminster is to be made safer for cyclists, with a £5,000 improvement scheme which will introduce stop markings at the Horsefair and Broad Street junction.

International funds pour in to help school

MORE than £16,000 of international aid - normally targeted at third world countries - has poured in to Dudley to help a special school create a new playground.

The Rotary Club of Dudley - currently celebrating its 90th anniversary - has managed to attract funding from America and France towards the £35,000 project at Pens Meadow School, Kingswinford.

A grant of 24,957 dollars - £16,509 - has come in from the Rotary International Foundation in America, which normally supports third world humanitarian projects. Further top-ups from district Rotarians and their counterparts in the Cotes des

Legendes area of Brittany, France, have helped raise the total for the new safety playground for Pens Meadow School.

Dudley Rotary president Graham Dean said: "We believe that this funding of a project in the UK by the Rotary Foundation is a first."

When he took over as president in July, he decided to ask the school, which teaches children aged three to 19 with very special needs, such as profound and multiple learning disorders and autism, what it needed. The headmistress said the playground

needed a new surface and refurbishment - and Mr Dean decided to apply to foundation for help, as well as spurring on fundraising in the Dudley branch.

The money will pay for the new surface and special exercise and play equipment and the work is due to start in May.

Dudley Rotarians have raised a total of about £6,000 themselves, through a Christmas collection at Tesco's Burnt Tree Island branch, a golf day and other events.

District Rotarians matched that funding and other members in Brest, Brittany, also chipped in, along with their regional branch.

Mr Dean said: "Before Rotary International Foundation would consider any funding for the project it was a requirement that the Dudley club had an international partner who was also willing to make a donation."

"The Rotary Club of Dudley and the Rotary Club of Brest, Brittany, France - Cotes des Legendes - have had a long standing relationship over many years."

Head Marie Bissell said: "Having a well-designed, safe and accessible play area which is flexible enough to meet the complex needs of the school population will enhance and enrich the opportunities for all pupils."

St George's Day celebration sees thousands taking part

MORE than 2,000 people turned out for a day of events to celebrate St George's Day in Dudley starting with a traditional parade through the town.

Residents gathered outside Dudley Council House, in Priory Road, on Saturday for the march which featured veterans groups and other organisations from the town and beyond.

They cheered as the parade set off taking in Priory Road and Market Place in the town centre.

Among the groups taking part in the procession were Halesowen Scout Band, Sedgley Morris Men, Oldbury Squadron Air Training Corps and the RAF Association. Quarry Bank and Cradley's Royal British Legions, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and Halesowen and District Beaver Scouts were also part of the parade.

Following the procession, residents were treated to a variety of events on a main stage in the town centre.

Great

Maggie O'Hara sang patriotic songs such as Land of Hope and Glory and Jerusalem. This was followed by a dance performed by the 1st Sedgley Morris Men.

Secretary Dave Jeffery said: "We thoroughly enjoyed it. We have done the event in Dudley for the past six or seven years and we always have a great time."

"It is nice to celebrate St George's Day. It is the English celebration and Morris Dancing is an English tradition."

Other highlights included exhibitions at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery, activities at Dudley Library and tours of the council house, including information on the historic civic robes and insignia.

Alf Dimmock, aged 87, of Sheffield Street in Quarry Bank, was among the Royal British Legion members at the event.

The former private, who served with The Suffolk Regiment in the 1940s, said: "I think it was a good day. We should celebrate being English. Why not? I am proud to be English." Teacher Sally Jones, who lives near Tunnel Street, Colesey, attended the event with her son Archie, aged four, who was dressed as a medieval knight. Mrs Jones said: "I thought it was really worthwhile."



Hundreds attended the St George's Day event at the market place in Dudley



Alf Dimmock, aged, 87 from Quarry Bank



Three of the flag bearers at the St George's Day parade in Dudley



Archie Jones, aged four, from Sedgley

NEWS in brief

Tributes perform to boost charity

TRIBUTE acts from across the Midlands will be singing for supper at a charity night at a Blackheath pub.

On Monday The Knights Quest in the High Street is hosting a charity night for Macmillan Cancer that will play host to some of the region's best acts.

Starting at 7pm guest will be able to enjoy samples from the pub's new menu as well as a quiz and a raffle with prizes donated by local firms, followed by six live acts including Stacey Maslin Green as Pink and Tyler Jon as Gary Barlow.

Author in praise of theatre group

A PLAYWRIGHT has praised a Stourbridge Theatre Company after it won a clutch of awards at a drama festival.

The success of the company's production of Dear Diva was a coup for Rosie Jennings, who took on the role of director for the first time. The group won the title of best play in the Worcestershire Festival.

Rosie contacted author Jan Harris and the playwright responded, saying: "Congratulations on all of the awards, you must be a talented bunch."

Funding deadline for groups close

GRASS roots organisations in Dudley are being given an opportunity to benefit from new funding. Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has set aside £100,000 to for groups in the borough with new projects.

The Community in Control fund will support projects which have a health and wellbeing theme. The closing date for applications tomorrow (Friday) with successful projects will be notified on May 13. Visit www.dudley-cvs.org.uk

Rise early to hear the dawn chorus

BIRD lovers are being invited to rise early, grab their binoculars and listen to some birdsong on a dawn chorus walk.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is holding the event at its Highgate Common Nature Reserve, near Kingswinford on May 4 between 4.30am and 7am. To book a place, call 01384 221798.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



ON A walk in the park I removed, four "Ding Dong" stickers, stuck to lamp posts by the sort of people who think it's fun to rejoice in the death of a politician you disagree with. Doesn't it make your flesh creep?

I HEARD a Scotsman on the radio raging that he could never forgive Maggie for introducing the poll tax in Scotland before England. Poll tax was nothing more than an attempt to replace household rates with something better, but from his rage-level you'd think Thatcher had sent in the troops to strangle Scottish babies. This week a minority of Brits, thankfully a tiny minority, seem to have lost all sense of proportion.

MEANWHILE, back at the park, I had a close encounter with a little dog from what is now a rare breed who came over to make friends. It was like stepping back 50 years. Whatever happened to fox terriers?

THE price of gold has been tumbling and thousands of late investors who thought they were on to a sure winner have lost. Remember the first rule of investing, by the time you spot a bandwagon, it's usually leaving.

WOOLWICH Crown Court heard this week how four British jihadists planned to attack a Territorial Army centre by loading a remote-controlled toy car with explosives and sending it under the gates. The irony is that as they plotted their attack, a Conservative-led government was hard at work destroying not just one drill hall but the entire Territorial Army. Whitehall's plan is to turn the TA into a reserve force of volunteers who are ready, willing and able to leave their civilian jobs for six months' full-time service every couple of years. This scheme has "doomed" stamped all over it. Over the past 20 years, as the demands of active service have increased, the TA has dwindled from 60,000 to about 12,000. I give the TA another two years at the most. Where the terrorists failed, bean-counters in dark suits are succeeding.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Gem of business going strong after 125 years

IT WAS back in the days when Queen Victoria was on the throne that Thomas Henry Baker opened his first jewellery shop in Brierley Hill.

And his descendants are now preparing to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the firm which has grown to include stores across the region, as well as outlets in areas such as Sussex.

Thomas Baker took over a business in Brierley Hill High Street on October 6, 1888, and bought the freehold to a building there the following year.

Trading still continues in those premises and it is where Mr Baker's great-grandson, Alan Higgs, and his sons Phillip and Andrew carry out the day-to-day running of the firm.

Successful

Alan bought the company from his uncles, Rupert and Paul, and aunt, Rosalie, in 1988 and said it had been an honour to keep the legacy going.

Phillip, 30, joined the firm in 2003 and 33-year-old Andrew in 2005 - ensuring the family-run heritage of the firm continues for many years to come.

Alan said he had first trained as a chartered accountant before joining the business in 1972.

"All-in-all I have been working here in Brierley Hill for more than 40 years," he said. "There have been a lot of changes in the town over the years. When I first started working



Business founder Thomas Henry Baker at his shop

here the Round Oak Steelworks was still operating and Marsh and Baxter was still in the town.

"I would not say it was affluent but it was a successful industrial area and the town was bustling.

"Of course in the time I have been here the Merry Hill shopping centre has also been built which changed trading in this area for all time.

"The company has continued to thrive throughout all the changes in the area.

"Because we trade across the whole region and in other areas, we have been able to keep going. It is very rare for a business to be run by one family all through its history.

"We are very proud of this accomplishment and look forward to the anniversary celebrations later this year."

Thomas Baker was originally a



Director Alan Higgs with sons Phillip and Andrew

watchmaker and jeweller from Caine, Wiltshire, before moving to the Black Country.

His son Reginald joined the firm in 1900 but after his death in 1910, his sisters Phillis and Cecily began working at the store, a highly progressive move at the time.

Reginald also wrote a book on the industry called Diamonds and their Mounts.

Joined

In 1915, Phillis married Frank Higgs and in 1912 Frank bought the business from Thomas Baker, who then retired.

Mr Higgs joined the Royal Army Service Corps following the outbreak of the First World War and his wife ran the shop.

In 1937, Hugh and Rupert Higgs, grandsons of Thomas Baker, joined

the business. They volunteered to serve in the Second World War and Paul and Rosalie Higgs joined the business with Paul later joining the Royal Air Force.

All three returned home safely and continued at the business. As part of the celebrations, the firm is giving away £125,000 worth of jewellery in the run-up to the anniversary in October.

To take part, people can get a form from a TH Baker store or visit the firm's website, www.thbak.co.uk/

Alan said: "Recently I have taken more of a back seat allowing Phillip and Andrew to develop new ideas for the business."

Alongside stores in Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Shopping Centre, the company has branches in Walsall and Shrewsbury.

Hospital in call for aid over room

ACCIDENT and emergency staff are looking for people to donate money to refurbish the relatives room at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

The room is offered to friends and families so they can rest while their loved one is being seen.

The money raised will be spent on new furnishings for the room such as tables and sofas to make the room a more comfortable, relaxing environment and give the room a less clinical feel.

Emergency department matron Briony Howells said: "Hospital can be a distressing place for relatives as they wait for their loved one to be treated and we are hoping to create a more comfortable surrounding."

To make a donation call Margaret Chavro on 01384 456111 ext 2323

Trolley haul in canal clean-up

A SHOPPING trolley, computers and a lawnmower were among the rubbish found in Stourbridge Canal by a group of volunteers.

More than 70 people helped clean-up the canal.

On the first day they worked from the bottom of Delph Locks to the top of Stourbridge Locks. The next day they cleared the 16 locks along with the Stourbridge Town Arm. About 50 tons of rubbish was picked up from the canal, including a safe, a trolley, several computers, a lawnmower, vacuum cleaner and various tyres.

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Dog lands owner with a £350 fine

A DOG owner who allowed his pet to foul in a Dudley park has been fined £350 for failing to clear up after it.

Cy Natabus, of Blackacre Road, Dudley, will have to pay a total of £665 in court bills after being prosecuted for the offence, which happened in Buffery Park, Dudley.

At the hearing, which Natabus failed to attend, the court heard how a Dudley Council enforcement officer on September 20 had seen him allowing his dog to foul in the park.

When approached, Natabus gave a false name but inquiries allowed officers to trace him to his address.

He was then issued with a fine which he failed to pay, so a court prosecution was carried out. He was convicted at Dudley Magistrates Court of breaching Section 3 of the Dog Fouling and Land Act - failure to clean up after his dog - in his absence on April 4.

He must pay a fine of £350 and costs of £295. Natabus was also ordered to pay a £20 victim surcharge.

Cadets at camp

WHILE most teenagers spent their Easter break enjoying time off school, cadets from 347 (Dudley) Squadron were at one of the biggest camps the region has seen for years.

Cadet: Are You Tough Enough? saw 79 cadets and 22 staff from West Mercia at the four-day camp at MoD Sennybridge Training Area in Wales.

Young and brutal murderer now facing life behind bars

A YOUNG man is facing life behind bars after he was convicted of the brutal murder of Shane Watson in a Dudley alleyway.

Shylon Wishart, aged 19, showed no emotion as jurors at Wolverhampton Crown Court took just over an hour to deliver their guilty verdict for the killing on July 28 last year.

Family members and friends of popular Wolves fan Mr Watson, including his mother Jane, wept as the verdict was given. A seven-day trial heard Wishart and 18-year-old James Cartwright, who had earlier admitted murder, punched, kicked and stamped on Mr Watson in the alleyway off Springfield Grove, Sedgley. The court heard how the two attackers stripped Mr Watson and took pictures of themselves urinating on him after they had beaten him.



James Cartwright

Shylon Wishart

The victim had become separated from his girlfriend Kelly Handley after they had left Monty's Bar in the High Street.

When a concerned Miss Handley and Mrs Watson tried to contact their loved one, they were callously told that he was "dead at the bottom of the alley".

The court was told Wishart and Cartwright attended a house party in a "hyper" mood after the killing.

Revellers told jurors how they were shown photos of the victim by the pair, who boasted about "just knocking out Shane".

Snared

But the killers were snared by police and arrested within 10 hours of the attack after witnesses went to the police and told them about what they had seen at the party.

Officers arrested the duo at their Sedgley homes. Wishart's trainers and jeans, as well as a pair of Cartwright's trainers, were discovered in the rear garden of Wishart's property. Each of the items contained Mr Watson's blood, while a mobile phone cover belonging to the victim was also found.

Detectives revealed how members of the Sedgley community helped secure the convictions of the killers. Cartwright, of Sandyfields Road, and Wishart, of North Springfield, will be sentenced together at a date to be fixed. Wishart was warned by Judge John Warner that only a sentence of life in prison could be imposed.

They took my only son - mother



Shane Watson - popular in community

THE parents of murdered Shane Watson described how the tragedy of his death had "devastated them beyond words".

Steven and Jane Watson described their popular son as a fun-loving family-oriented man who avoided trouble.

It was Mrs Watson who discovered Shane's battered body in the alleyway where he was kicked and punched to death by Shylon Wishart and James Cartwright.

Moments before the discovery, the murderers had callously told her that her son was "dead at the bottom of the alley" when she made a frantic call to his mobile phone to try to reach him.

Surrounded by family and friends, Mrs Watson wept as jurors returned a guilty verdict. She said: "I struggle to put into words the scene that I was faced with when I saw Shane lying by himself in the alleyway. It would be any mother's worst nightmare but it is a reality for me.

Cruel

"I relive the images in my head every day and cannot erase the painful memory of seeing Shane and hearing the voices of the people responsible for such a nasty, cruel and degrading attack.

"The people responsible took his dignity, his life and my only son. We both idolised Shane, he was the single most important person in our lives and to see him so badly hurt has devastated us beyond words."

Avid Wolves fan Mr Watson, who worked as a debt collector, was popular among the Sedgley community.

His parents added: "He always acted as a peacemaker and would actively avoid trouble and do his best to calm situations down."

NEWS in brief

Good neighbour scheme help call

AGE UK Dudley's Good Neighbour Scheme is looking for volunteers, particularly in Gornal, Sedgley and Coseley, to befriend isolated and lonely older people and visit them in their homes.

Training and support is given to volunteers. Volunteers must be 18 or over.

Call Julie Sandall or Judy Nicolls on 01384 354512 or email goodneighbour@ageukdudley.org.uk

Volunteers plea for collections

THE RSPCA is appealing for volunteers to help with a bucket collection at the Tesco supermarket in Cradley Heath.

The charity will also hold a collection at the Quinton store and is asking people and businesses to join in fundraising during RSPCA Week, which runs from April 29 to May 5. Call 0300 123 8567 or 07715 540518.

Guide to walks

A GUIDE to walks, fitness sessions and activities in the Dudley borough's parks has been launched. It includes the annual Dudley Borough Trail which is part of the Dudley Walking Festival. For details, call 0300 555 2345.

Reassurance

STAFF and residents of a Dudley care home have been assured nothing will change as they are taken over. Broadway Hills, between Priory Road and The Broadway, is now run by Four Seasons Health Care.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS



YORKIES are getting smaller. Apparently, there has been a bit of a furore on the internet about the chunky chocolate bars, which proudly take the name from the city where they are made, being reduced from six blocks to five.

Can't imagine the reaction if they ever shift production to Goole.

WHO ate all the thighs? Well, actually it was Branislav Ivanovic's arm, but I'm sure now he's got the taste for it, Luis Suarez is probably partial to the odd leg of Chelsea defender as well.

"We were watching in disbelief," said Match of the Day sage Robbie Savage, as Suarez sunk his gnashers into the Serbian full-back. "To do that to a fellow professional is shocking and disgraceful".

Don't you just know you've gone too far when Robbie Savage is treading the moral high ground.

It is not the first time Suarez has bitten an opponent, and clearly something needs to be done.

According to 'dog whisperer' Cesar Milan, covering your gloves in foul-tasting liquids is a good way of cutting down on biting behaviour among puppies, as well as pressing your thumb under the biter's tongue and squeezing his chin.

All worth a try, I'm sure, but my favourite solution involves making the offender lie down before meal times, taking the bowl away, and occasionally throwing in the odd treat to show that biting doesn't pay.

Now come on. Who outside Anfield wouldn't like to see Luis Suarez begging for his meals?

MEANWHILE, a strange line of defence came from the Newcastle United fan caught on film punching a police horse.

"I've got three dogs, a fish pond and I feed foxes across the road," said a tearful Barry Rogerson, after dealing a swift right hook to his four-legged nemesis.

On come on Barry, you can do better than that. How about "Police horses? Sunderland fans? All look the same to me". Or maybe "I didn't like the way the horse was looking at me".

If he wanted to be really creative, he could even have gone down the discrimination route, accusing the authorities of misunderstanding the horse-fighting community. Where there's blame there's a claim, and all that.

Rogerson lives on disability living allowance and incapacity benefit, so presumably his lung condition prevents him from earning a living as a full-time horse fighter.

But a fish pond? What sort of football hooligan are you, man? After the incident, Rogerson issued a heartfelt apology.

"I would like to apologise to the horse," he said. "I am on medication."

You don't say.



Soldier Oliver Amos, aged, 20



Teenagers, from left, Oliver, Leslie, the late Harry Hill and George



Leslie, George, Oliver Amos and the late Harry Hill in 1986

Lifelong friendship of Lye's likely lads

Three old mates have more than 80 years of happy memories as LOUISE JEW found out

THREE likely lads from Lye – now all aged in their 90s – have enjoyed a special get-together to reminisce about well over 80 years of friendship.

The 90th birthday of William "Oliver" Amos provided an opportunity for a reunion for the trio, who grew up in Lye and became good friends in the Scouts.

Oliver and chums, Leslie Hill, now aged 92 and from Oldbury, and 91-year-old George Worton, now of Bourne-mouth, went on to serve in the Second World War and each saw out at least 50 years of marriage, surviving their wives.

Oliver, now living in the Avondale residential home, Norton Road, Stourbridge, said: "We've got many happy memories to share and enjoy – so there can't have been much wrong with Lye."

Raised

Leslie and George joined Oliver for his recent birthday in Norton.

George recalled from their days as children growing up in Lye: "In those early days there were not many cars or lorries about, so we could play with safety in the streets.

"How many remember the games we did play? Jack-upon-the Mopstick, shine-the-light, kick-the-can, marbles and the cigarette cards we used to save."

Oliver was born and raised in Union Street, Lye, and he, Leslie and George, together with another friend, the late Harry Hill, attended the town's Orchard Lane School.

Oliver started work at Evason brothers in Lye, making enamelware, before going on to serve an apprenticeship with the Ducatt Heating and Engineering company in Amblecote, Stourbridge.

When called up for the army, he was



The Lye "likely lad", from left, Leslie Hill, aged 92, Oliver Amos, celebrating his 90th birthday, and George Worton, 91

posted to Burma and celebrated his 21st birthday en route by convoy to the Far East around the Cape of Good Hope.

Before setting off, he married Dorothy Parker, from Wollaston, Stourbridge, in October 1943 – with Leslie as his best man.

But Oliver would not see Dorothy again for three years.

And after his "Class B" release from the army, in which he was Company Sergeant Major for A Company in the East Yorkshire Regiment, he saw his daughter, Pauline, for the first time. Return-

ing to civilian life he took up his pre-war position with the Ducatt Heating company.

In his spare time, together with 35 other skilled tradesmen, became involved in the self-build project of 36 bungalows in The Broadway, Norton.

Stayed

He and Dorothy's first home together was in Barn Close, on the New Farm Estate between Lye and Stourbridge, where they lived in the top flat and Leslie in the bottom, with George just

round the corner. They then moved into their self-build bungalow in The Broadway, where they stayed for many years before moving to Avon Road, Norton.

Oliver's reputation as a heating engineer saw him progress to Hoare, Lee and Partners as a clerk of the works and he finished his career with the Regional Hospital Board, again as clerk of works, in 1988.

Oliver, Leslie, George and their wives were keen sequence dancers for much of their lives, to which they attribute their longevity.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

HOMES in the West Midlands were rocked by thunderstorms which swept over the region leaving a trail of damage. Lightning bolts hit many roofs and chimneys, showering streets with rubble during the wettest April for more than 100 years.

A WOLVERHAMPTON teacher was voted top of the class after fighting a blaze at Oxley Primary School. Philip Hall leapt into action with a fire extinguisher when he spotted the fire in a classroom during lunch time.

FOUR workmates at Dudley factory Kennametal were celebrating after scooping a £300,000 pools jackpot. The win was particularly sweet for Ernie Willetts, who stayed in the syndicate despite being made redundant two months earlier.

1993...

SURGEONS performed a rare operation to save the career of an 18-year-old Wolves player who broke his neck in a freak accident. Darren Shaw became the first patient in the Midlands to undergo an operation in which a metal screw was used to rejoin the top of his spine to a bone in his skull.

WALSALL pensioners launched a postcard campaign aimed at preserving their free travel passes. Members of the Walsall branch of the National Pensioners' Convention went down to London to protest against government plans to cut free travel for the elderly.

A WIN on the pools proved too exciting for Kidderminster great-grandmother Nan Bradley, who passed out while discussing ways to spend her £768,000 jackpot.

2003...

PENSIONERS were encouraged to return to wartime tactics in the battle to stop jobs terrorising their neighbourhood. Elderly residents in Wordsley were advised by police to tape up their windows in a cross-cross pattern – a technique used in the 1940s to stop glass flying into homes during bombings.

NEARLY 40 per cent of roads in Dudley were crumbling and in urgent need of repair. The results were published by the Department of Transport after a series of high-tech tests across the borough during 2001/02.

WOLVERHAMPTON'S lollipop men and women were honoured at a special ceremony to mark 50 years of the service. To mark the national anniversary, all 105 school crossing patrols were invited to the event at the civic centre by Wolverhampton City Council.

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LETTERS

Rise in lottery will lose players

WITH everything else in decline, the National Lottery has announced a doubling of the price of a lottery ticket to £2 in September.

The lottery would seem to be a tax on people with limited resources who have aspirations of a better life.

This can be illustrated by the positioning of scratch cards at counters where people collect their benefit allowances and also the TV campaigns.

They have warned us six months in advance to canvas public opinion before the increase takes place. We are told more funds are needed to make the prize money more attractive.

In reality, for instance, the reward for selecting three numbers is at present £10. The actual chance of getting three numbers is approximately 55/1 and not 10/1. The chance of winning the top prize is around 14 million to one whereas the payout is usually £3 or £4m.

They then tell us from the total taken, 50 per cent is paid in prize money; 28 per cent to good causes - many of which should in the first place be financed by central government - and 12 per cent goes to government lottery duty. Many of the "good causes" mentioned would not be high on most

lottery players' lists of benefactors.

They include 20 per cent to Arts; 40 per cent to health, education and environment; 20 per cent to Sports and 20 per cent to Heritage.

So in effect when you buy a lottery ticket 50 per cent is going to the Government or the organisers.

If Camelot go ahead with the increase they think people will invest more. Unfortunately in the real world the people they are targeting have limited money and if reality prevails they will be leaving in droves.

**ROY SLIMM
Dudley**

Grow up, people in pleb row

I HAVE just heard the cost to the taxpayer is now over £100,000 to prove or disprove, whether or not Andrew Mitchell called a police officer a pleb.

The word pleb means an ordinary person especially one from the lower classes.

I cannot understand what all the fuss is about. I know little about the law, but I do know it has to be in the public interest for the CPS to consider taking it to court.

I am left handed and in my youth was called "caggy". I have read it in a national newspaper that police invaded an MP's office in a "cag-handed manner".

If you know what "cag" means, it is much worse than being called a pleb.

Being a lefty I would never think of taking a newspaper to court over it, it is so childish. Grow up and get a life I say, and stop wasting taxpayer's money.

**EILEEN TRACEY
Kingswinford**

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Halesowen.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Shoddy road repairs were waste of time

READING an article on April 13 about shoddy road repairs in Tipton, reminds me of my journey from Bilston to Cosely a few nights ago in the rush hour.

Approaching a bend in the road, I came upon a line of traffic.

As I moved closer to the front of the line, I saw a Wolverhampton council pick-up truck in the middle of the road. I got to about two cars to the rear of the truck. As I watched it was amazed to see what was happening.

There was one man driving the truck, moving a few feet it would stop, then a few more feet and stop again and so on. There was one man controlling the traffic around the truck.

At the rear of the truck was a man on his hands and knees, every so often, he would take a handful of tarmac off the back of the vehicle, put it in a pot hole, then pat it down with his hand.

Not only was it amusing but, dangerous, expensive and a waste of time. Needless to say, a few nights later, the same holes were back.

**NORMAN D CADDICK
Cosely**

Sad loss of minister who fought hatred

IT is with great sadness we write this letter upon hearing of the death of the Rev Tony Attwood.

While minister for Top Church, Dudley, he not only served his congregation, but also played an important role in Dudley, regardless of their religious, or non-religious background.

He was a committed anti-racist and actively opposed those political forces that sought to create racial or religious division and hatred.

He shared many a platform with Unite Against Fascism while campaigning against the BNP. When the racist EDL held violent demonstrations in Dudley, Tony was amongst the first to stand shoulder to shoulder to oppose them.

While his death is a sad loss, his desire for respect, peace and unity lives on.

**CLLR PETE LOWE,
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NEWS

£1.6m revamp of two day centres under way

THE first stage of a £1.6 million project to revamp two Dudley day centres and provide better services to residents with dementia is under way.

Work has started on refurbishing and decorating Brettell Lane Day Centre in Stourbridge.

Once it has been completed early next year, council bosses say they will start overhauling Brett Young Day Centre in Halesowen.

Dudley Council wants to turn them into "Dementia Gateways" to meet the specific needs of people with the condition.

It is estimated around 3,850 people in the borough are affected by the condition.

The work will include improvements to the access to the buildings and the creation of sensory gardens. The centres offer a wide range of day sessions and therapies, from crafts and memory exercises to gardening.

Staff also run activities to provide a break for family and carers.

Councillor Steve Waltho, said: "Improvements to Brettell Lane and Brett Young day centres will help continue the excellent support for people with dementia."

"Dementia gateways aim to ensure those affected by dementia enjoy life to the full, and offer a wide range of day sessions and therapies, from crafts and memory exercises to gardening." Around £960,000 will be spent on Brettell Lane Day Centre in King William Street, which provides services for around 45 people.

Choir raising the notes



Back, Astley Blake, Mike Green, John Smith, Dennis Perkins, Bill Jones, with Chris Barron of White House

A CHOIR is hoping to raise the roof of a Halesowen church for a cancer charity.

The Black Country's Gentleman Songsters will be taking to the stage on April 27 in aid of Dudley-based White House Cancer Support.

The concert will take place at St Margaret's Church in Hagley Road, Hasbury and will include a range of modern and traditional tunes.

They will be joined by pupils from Cotwall End Primary School in Sedgley. The school choir had been

due to sing with the Songsters at a concert at Dudley Town Hall last month but the event was cancelled because of bad weather.

Manager of the charity Chris Barron said he was grateful for the support of both of the choirs.

"It's the first time the Gentleman Songsters have performed a concert for White House Cancer Support."

Tickets for the 7.30pm concert cost £6 and are available from The White House in Ednam Road on 01384 231232.

Driver out of hospital

A DRIVER rescued by a Good Samaritan after his car smashed into a lamp-post and wall has been released from hospital. The motorist, in his mid-20s, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham following the crash in Siddons Road, Coseley, at 1.30am on April 13. He was thrown from the vehicle and trapped under the engine. The driver was rescued by Dale Crowley.

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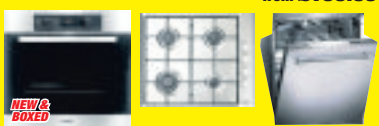


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Kerry S. lost 14 inches, BMI down 1.1%, Body Fat down 2.4% in just 7 weeks

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MEMORY LANE



Walsall Station flooded by old South Staffs rail building



South Staffordshire Railway Station building, about 1965



Walsall Station seen in its final days, Park Street in 1978



Troops at Walsall leaving to fight in the Second World War

Town took pride in a grand central station

BACK in the good old days, Walsall was adorned by a grand railway station, the heart of the town's transport system.

by *Stuart Williams*

The first railway line through Walsall - the Grand Junction Railway between Birmingham and Warrington - had opened in 1837, with a station at Bescot Bridge. In 1847 South Staffordshire Railway opened a temporary station in Bridgeman Place, linking with the Grand Junction line. The Wichnor Junction line to Dudley opened in 1849, connecting with Walsall.

A magnificent new building, designed by Queen Mary's Grammar School 'old boy' Edward Adams, was built for the South Staffordshire Railway in Station Street that year.

The SSR opened the Cannock line in 1858, extending to Rugeley 1859. The London and North Western Railway took over the Cannock line in 1861, widening

Walsall Station to accommodate freight trains. The Wolverhampton Line was opened in 1872 by the Wolverhampton and Walsall Railway. By then the Midland Railway was negotiating for running rights to Walsall.

Walsall Station was rebuilt in 1883 with a main entrance in Park Street and separate booking offices for the LNWR and Midland Railways. The LNWR owned the station. The old station became used for parcels and administration. In March 1916 a fire damaged the booking hall but due to the First World War the station could only be patched up.

The iron and glass canopy forming the Park Street entrance was retained when an imposing new circular booking hall and concourse were built after the war. Adorned with Grecian-style pillars, leaded roof windows and oak-paneled walls, this beautiful building,

opened in 1923 by the LNWR District Superintendent, Mr J.F. Bradford, is well remembered by older local people.

With the growth of car ownership, the station's importance declined. The 'Beeching Axe' in 1965 left passenger trains between Walsall and Birmingham only. Walsall Station was virtually defunct by 1977 when the service went hourly.

In 1978 the old station was replaced with the Saddlers Centre, opened in 1980. The station became little more than a glorified halt with a tiny ticket office and concourse.

In the late 20th century, however, rail passenger services underwent a national revival, including Walsall Station.

Prints of pictures shown and thousands more are available to purchase by special order, as well as a wide range of books, from Walsall Local History Centre. Telephone 01922 721305 or go to www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre



Shunt locomotive no 47396 taking on water in Walsall



Locomotive no 42758 pulls an excursion train into Walsall Station

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Tony Hardiman goes on to say "We don't know how long the scheme will be available for so it's vitally important that those households that think they may be eligible should call us straight away to avoid disappointment – it's free and could make all the difference between a cold home – or a warm one."

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 - a pensioner element
- Income-based job seeker's allowance (unemployed or work less than 16 hours a week) with either:
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- Income support (lone parent, on mat/ paternity leave or carer) with either:
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- State pension credit
- Working tax credit with an income of £15,860 or less with either:
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NEWS

£90m Metro extension plan high on wish list

A £30 MILLION Midland Metro extension in the Black Country is planned to get under way between 2015 and 2019.

And a £90 million second line from Wednesbury to Dudley is also on a wish list drawn up by transport bosses, who want to split up the long-awaited link between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill.

The Wolverhampton Metro loop is second on a list of the priorities drawn up by transport authority Centro.

The Black Country has £27.6m for transport schemes coming from the Government between 2015 and 2018 while Birmingham will get £35.8m.

To secure the rest, council leaders and MPs are being urged to lobby the Government while Centro is hoping to use new powers from schemes such as Chancellor George Osborne's Enterprise Zones to borrow money against the business rates that new companies will be paying.

Value

Councils will be allowed to keep rates from new businesses as opposed to sending them to central government.

The top priority is to get the Midland Metro out from New Street station, Birmingham, to Five Ways. But a new Metro link from Wednesbury town centre to Dudley town centre is also considered to have "significant economic and regeneration value".

The wider scheme to take the Metro to the Merry Hill Shopping Centre would cost up to £300m. Centro also wants to provide more services to Rowley Regis and other Black Country stations.

Brent is back in office



The Office - Simon Hawkins, as Tim, and Claire Hetherington, as Dawn both of Dudley, with Dave Hutchins, of Brierley Hill, as David Brent

IT was the comedy that made Ricky Gervais a star and poked fun at office staff working nine to five at a Slough paper merchants.

Now hit TV show The Office will be moving from the small screen to the stage, thanks to Dudley Little Theatre Company. After several emails to Gervais and his writing partner Stephen Merchant they agreed to what is believed to be the first ever stage version of the programme. It will be staged at Netherthorpe Arts Centre, in Northfield Road, from May 8 to May 11. Dave Hutchins has the lead role as boss

David Brent, while Simon Hawkins takes the role of Tim made famous by Martin Freeman. Claire Hetherington plays Dawn Tinsley who was portrayed by Lucy Davis in the BBC show.

Mr Hutchins, aged 40, of John Street, Brierley Hill, said: "I had to wait a while before we got clearance to stage it but we think it's an exclusive around here."

Tickets cost £6/£7 for adults. Call Dudley Council Plus on 01384 812812 or Chris Ridgeway on 01384 872583. Visit www.dudleylittletheatre.org for details.

Face-to-face help ends

INSURER Axa is cutting 450 jobs as it stops face-to-face financial advice. The jobs will go in branches of The Co-operative Bank and Yorkshire and Clydesdale Banks. Customers at branches in the Black Country will have to use call centres. Axa operates through the West Bromwich Building Society.

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College help in video training

ANIMATED videos are being used to train teachers after the idea was developed by staff at the University of Worcester and Halesowen College.

It is the brainchild of Dr John Keenan, of the University of Worcester, who is now putting the concept into practice after receiving £9,000 from the Learning and Skills Improvement Service.

The cash is being used to create animated videos showing trainee teachers how to use digital media as a tool. He developed the idea with colleagues at both sites.

He said: "In working together we came up with the idea of using animation in the style of world-renowned education expert, Sir Ken Robinson's Changing Educational Paradigms." Dr Keenan will present the video at a teaching conference at Falmouth University in September.

White taxi ruling set to stay

CONTROVERSIAL rules permitting taxi drivers to use only white-coloured cars are unlikely to be changed despite cabbies pledging to pursue legal action to fight the ruling, it has emerged.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association wants Dudley Council to re-think its regulations on car colour and staged a protest in the town this week bringing traffic to a standstill.

Despite the action, councillors today said the issue was unlikely to be discussed again in the short-term and any possible change to the regulations could now be years away.

And while leading campaigners were apologetic for disruption caused by the action, they remain determined to get the rules overturned and were planning legal action. The association

recently lost its bid to get the regulations abolished when Dudley Council's taxi committee voted the rule should be retained.

Members of the association say white cars are more expensive because of the popularity of the colour - with some even forced to respray their vehicles to comply with the rule.

They want a second colour to be introduced but the council says having a single colour scheme allows customers to safely identify fully-licensed private taxis.

Expensive

Committee member Councillor Jackie Cotterill said: "I don't believe this will come before the committee again at any time in the near future. Of course it will be looked at again periodically but this will not be in the immediate term."

Councillor Cotterill said she did not believe the issue would be reviewed again within the next

year now a decision had been made. "There were very good reasons the vote went this way. It could even be up to two years before the policy is reviewed again," she added.

Chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association Shaz Saleem, who runs two taxi bases in the area, said the campaign would continue. He said the group planned to meet its legal representatives and were hoping to petition the authority for a fresh debate to see if an agreement can be reached.

Mr Saleem would not rule out further protests but pledged disruption would be kept to a minimum should such if action go ahead. He does happen again. "I want to apologise to people stuck in the traffic at this week's protest but we want to get our feelings across," he said.

"This is important for us because our drivers have families who they are trying to provide for."

Celebration to honour military

VETERANS will be awarded with medals and badges when Dudley's Armed Forces Day celebrations are held at Himley Hall on June 30 to honour the work of servicemen and women.

The Mayor of Dudley will present veterans with honours such as HM Armed Forces Veterans Badges or an Arctic Star or Bomber Command clasp.

The current mayor, Councillor Melvyn Mottram said: "The Armed Forces Day celebrations are always a huge success and this year is shaping up to be a great day out for the whole family. We especially want to hear from servicemen and women who are entitled to, or have already been sent the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badges or the Arctic Star and Bomber Command clasp."

The event includes entertainment and will start with a youth marching band contest.

Diamond couples



Mary and Geoffrey Body celebrate their anniversary

A SHARED love of dancing has kept them cheek to cheek through 60 happy years of marriage.

But when Geoff and Mary Body first met at the Stourbridge Baths, both had two left feet.

Mr Body, aged 82, said: "In the winter they used to cover the baths with a wooden dancefloor and they had a band playing."

"My dancing was terrible in those days. Neither of us were very good. "But my first impression was that she was very nice."

Two years later, on April 11, 1953, the couple were married at St Mary's Church, Kingswinford.

They celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary with a meal at the Four Stones restaurant in Clent, Stourbridge, together with

close family, including their daughter Hilary Benton and granddaughter Vicki.

The couple, of Greenscroft, Kingswinford, also received a card from the Queen.

And they got an extra surprise from friends at their weekly dance class at Richardson Hall, Wordsley.

Mr Body said: "We were going to go to the class that week but we were both ill."

Surprise

"The next thing we knew our daughter arrived with a great bunch of flowers from the club. I was completely surprised."

Mr Body was a former engine driver for Great Western Railways and later became a security sergeant for Round Oak Steelworks in Dudley. Mrs Body, aged 81, worked for Cadbury's.



It was love at first sight for Robert and Sheila Wood

THEIR eyes met at a Dudley fair when they were teenagers, and they have not parted company since.

Sheila Wood met her future husband Robert at the old Brierley Hill fair, held in Cottage Street, when she was 16, and now the duo have celebrated 60 years of marriage.

They have seven daughters and had a son Robert junior, who passed away aged four-months-old. They also have 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, with another on the way.

Sheila, a retired sausage linker for Marsh & Baxter butchers, who is now 77, said she was struck by Robert's thick black curly hair, and the pair married a year after their paths first crossed, at Dudley Register Office.

She added: "We met at the fair, and I went with him, and we never parted after.

When I first saw him, I told my friend I liked him. "He had thick, curly, black hair, and he was very handsome."

Retired Dudley Council worker Robert, now aged 80, meanwhile, revealed the secret to the pair's longevity.

He added: "The secret to a long marriage is marrying the right person."

Silly

The pair, who used to enjoy swimming every day and now like to look around car boot sales, celebrated their milestone at a family meal - with 27 relatives - at The Court House, Kingswinford, on Sunday.

Sheila, who lives with Robert in Addison Road, Brierley Hill, added: "We're always together. We have silly little arguments but we never go to bed on one because we would never sleep."

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Hopes road money can be 'pinched'

THE construction of a road in Cradley Heath under a multi-million pound scheme will allow work to begin on 300 homes.

It is hoped some of the £3 million applied for by Sandwell Council from the Government's Pinch Point scheme will go towards the cratering the MacArthur Road and Woods Lane Link Road as part of the redevelopment of the Cradley road area.

The transformation of the former Cradley Heath factory estate and adjacent land into the homes has been held up due to viability issues directly linked to the provision of improved road access.

The money will come as part of the £170m Local Pinch Point Fund announced in the last Autumn Budget Statement which is aimed at removing bottlenecks on the highway network that are slowing economic growth.

Jordan clears up thank you

A TEENAGER from Cradley Heath has been thanked for his efforts during the recent snow.

Jordan Blakeway, aged 15, became an internet sensation and attracted 16,000 'likes' on Sandwell Council's Facebook page after buying his own grit to help clear an alley used by shoppers in the town. He joined more than 300 other 'Snow Champions' and council workers at a civic event to thank them for helping clear streets.

Residents grill council staff on derelict site regeneration

COUNCIL officers faced hostile campaigners demanding action to clear derelict buildings in Cradley to defend regeneration plans at a public meeting.

Around 150 residents packed into The Laurels Club, in Windmill Hill, for the first Cradley Action group meeting on Monday.

They rounded on Dudley Council officials for failing to tackle mounting rubbish around empty shops and the poor state of some premises.

Facing the brunt were Rupert Dugdale, the head of economic development, and Phil Coyne, assistant director for economic regeneration and transportation.

They explained the authority had drawn up revamp plans for the Windmill Hill and Colley Gate areas 18 months ago.

Jumping

These included new road junctions along the A458 and sprucing up nearby land with new shops and homes.

But campaigners claimed the plans had stalled and asked whether the council could use powers to buy up some of the worst shops to aid a regeneration scheme.

Mr Coyne said: "While it would be really nice to be able to say that there is a way of jumping in there and buying in all this land the reality of it is that there's not."

"Because the financial gap that existed in the cost of

by Andrew Turton

acquiring land, the cost of improved roads and then what we would get when we brought sites back to the market. Now there is a gap of anywhere between £6m and £8m."

Mr Coyne said the council was working with Providence Methodist Church on its potential redevelopment work and land owners around Colley Gate.

But he added there were strict rules the authority had to adhere to which prevents the wholesale use of compulsory purchase orders to buy up empty properties for redevelopment.

A presentation by the campaigners identified a number of shops including two empty takeaways and an old antiques shops which need attention.

The action group is led by husband and wife Richard and Chris Legiewicz, who run The Laurels Club, and resident Lynn Adams, who said: "We hope we were able to get our message across."

Fellow resident Kevin Powis, aged 53, said: "Something needs to be done."

Liam takes up the baton at age of 17



Young maestro Liam Hodgetts who has progressed from singing with Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir to conducting it

A CRADLEY Heath choir which is celebrating its 101st birthday this year has welcomed their latest teenage conductor.

Liam Hodgetts, of Stourbridge Road, Dudley, as always been musical and started singing in the 40-member male voice choir three years ago.

The 17-year-old said: "Conducting

the choir is not only a great experience and a laugh but it has really helped to improve my skills."

"My favourite songs to perform are older male voice choir pieces like Oh, When the Saints."

Chairman David Cormell said: "We are very proud to be the oldest surviving male choir around. "Liam is an

asset to us, he is a lovely lad who is extremely talented and has been a positive influence on our group."

The choir is set to perform with a Welsh choir, from Aber Valley, to raise money for the Dudley No 2 canal tunnel on May 25 at the Salvation Army, Meredith Street, Cradley Heath. For more details call 01384 393067.

Anniversary for clothes aid lifeline

A CRADLEY Heath clothing centre which helps families across the district is celebrating its first birthday.

Christian charity, Leaves 'n' Fishes, of Waterfall Lane, opened Beauty for Ashes last April and acts as a lifeline for people struggling to buy clothes.

Treasurer Mary Turner said: "Some of the people who come to us can't even afford charity shops and need help clothing their families and even furnishing their homes."

"It can be very emotional hearing the stories of people who have been in bad situations but all the volunteers are happy to help such a worthwhile cause."

Anyone who wants to donate clothes or household items should call 0121 5597443 for more information.

Musicians hit charity notes

MUSICIANS from across the Black Country gathered recently at Cradley Heath Library to raise money for charity.

A variety of performers took to the stage for the Black Country Arf Got Talent and managed to pull in £85 for the British Heart Foundation.

The library in Upper High Street now hopes to hold regular live music events and is encouraging acts to contact 01384 569316 or email cradleyheath_library@sandwell.gov.uk

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Waste recycling scheme public meeting planned

RESIDENTS will get to quiz company officials over controversial plans for a waste recycling plant in Brierley Hill during a public meeting.

Energy firm Clean Power Ltd wants permission for the plant on disused land next to a railway line, off Moor Street, near the former Royal Brierley Crystal glassworks.

Bosses said it would employ up to 30 staff and would turn waste into gas to generate electricity to power up to 10,000 homes. But fears over increased traffic, with potentially three lorries an hour accessing the site, have sparked opposition against the plans.

Now CleanPower Ltd is to give residents the chance to air their views at a meeting, it is hoped will take place next month. Company officials have already held

public consultation exhibitions. They spoke to ward councillors a fortnight ago about how they were going to address problems. The firm said it had already heeded people's concerns following the initial consultation including looking at ways to reduce traffic.

More emphasis on using a nearby railway line to transport waste has been considered and officials confirmed there would be no night time deliveries. They also moved to allay fears over odour but ward councillors said a further public meeting was needed.

Brockmoor and Pensnett Councillor Judy Foster said a date and a venue were to be finalised. She said: "We do feel all residents should have the opportunity to hear directly from Clean Power Ltd. Ultimately, it will be their views that will determine ours."

Store's first bricks laid

THE construction of a £50 million Tesco development in Stourbridge has entered a new stage as the first bricks for the supermarket are laid.

Two shopping floors and staircases can now be seen at the site off the ring road. Some of the roof has also been installed.

Work on the scheme, which also includes a new shopping centre has been gathering pace since the foundations were completed towards the end of last year.

The store is being built on the site of the old Crown Centre and Bell Street multi-storey car park.

It was demolished last March using

explosives. Landmovers cleared 9,000 tons of rubble, some of which will be re-used in the building, ready to construct the shopping complex.

Residents have welcomed the changing landscape of the town.

Accountant Sarah Thomas, aged 32, of Wollaston, said: "It's going to make such a difference to the town and improve the view the for people as they enter the town."

Lights

"It will look a lot better than what was there before."

The new supermarket will create 320 jobs and the development will also include a new shopping centre and a town square.

Lights will be installed on Stour-

bridge town hall as part of work to revamp the square to make it more attractive to shoppers.

The side of the town hall will form part of the square along with the entrance to the new shopping centre.

It will have plenty of seating for shoppers and will be a showpiece of the development.

Tesco submitted an application for listed building consent to install 'feature lighting' on the town hall, which was approved by the council.

The development is one of a number of regeneration schemes in the pipeline for the town. Planning permission has been granted for an 80-bedroom Premier Inn, on land just off Birmingham Street, and work is due to start on it next month.

Teatime at hall venue

PEOPLE can enjoy summer afternoons in the shadow of royalty with the reopening of the tea room at Himley Hall.

The building, which was once the visiting place for the Royal Family, is reopening its Oak Tea Room during spring and summer.

Visitors will be able to relax with tea and cake after a stroll in the rolling parkland. The former billiard room of the Earls of Dudley is open most Sunday between 2pm and 4.30pm, until September 1.

Dudley's culture councillor Tracy Wood said: "It is a perfect, cosy retreat."

Landlords of Cat are feline good



Pub of the Year – Dan and Aimee Hicks who run The Cat Inn, Enville, celebrate receiving the award

A COUPLE have raised a glass to customers and staff after marking their first year in charge of a pub by scooping a top award. Real ale drinkers from Dudley and South Staffs Camra have voted the Cat Inn at Enville, near Stourbridge, as their South Staffs pub of the year 2013.

Dan and Aimee Hicks took over last May after leaving their jobs to manage their first pub together. Dan, aged 38, worked as a chef at The Swan pub, Stourbridge, while 27-year-old Aimee was a business development manager at Stourbridge-based Mansell Construction.

But the pair, who are originally from Kinver but now live at the pub, say they feel at home pulling pints and serving customers. "You can have walkers coming in, beekeepers and we have an open fire, we even a dog friend pub so we try to stay true to our roots as a country pub," Dan said.

"We have to pay tribute and thank our staff for their hard work in helping the pub be so successful. Our customers have been great too and have been really supportive."

He added: "Thanks to the directors, who are Peter Isherwood, Lynn Garrington and Malcolm Braham, for their support and Tony Garrington for his famous brews."

Drivers 'putting lives at risk' on crossing

DRIVERS are putting lives at risk by failing to stop at a zebra crossing along a road in Dudley, worried residents claim. Householders have launched a campaign calling for tougher measures along Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, amid fears someone will be hurt if the situation continues.

They say even when drivers in the opposite lane have halted to let pedestrians cross, some still ignore the crossing. A petition has been signed by more than 400 people from nearby roads calling for action to be taken. It will be handed to Dudley Council. People want the existing zebra crossing to be upgraded to a pelican crossing which would allow pedestrians to stop the traffic and cross more safely.

Alternatively clearer road markings making drivers more aware of the crossing could be put in place. But Councillor Keiran Casey, ward member for Upper Gornal and Woodsetton, said it was hoped the crossing would be upgraded.

"I have seen something of it myself at this crossing. On one occasion I had stopped at the crossing to allow an elderly gentleman to get across. However, cars coming in the opposite direction failed to stop despite the gentleman waving his stick at them. It was around 20 seconds at least before one of the cars stopped. This is a very worrying situation."

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FORCES SUPPORT MAKES A LASTING IMPRESSION

Here's Jacqui's Story in her own words showing that local charity Forces Support really does make a lasting difference.

We received this letter from Jacqui in December 2011:

My name is Jacqui Janes, I'm the Mother of Gdsm Jamie Janes who died on route to hospital in Afghanistan on the 5th October 2009 and I live in Hove. Jamie was 20 yrs old, he isn't just my youngest son, he's my best friend. Since Jamie died, I haven't worked and I'm being treated for PTSD. When Jamie died, I changed the upstairs of my house because I tried to take my own life. Due to being on the sick I can't afford to re-do the

downstairs, which Jamie decorated in the summer of 2009. I have a half finished kitchen i.e. tiles and work tops. Everything seems to be going wrong. To be honest I haven't wanted to change the downstairs because I don't want Jamie to think I'm forgetting him, I know I can't live like this anymore. Please help me. Yours Sincerely, *Jacqui Janes*

Here's what Jacqui had to say the day after we finished the work, January 2012:



"Good morning world. It was so nice going down stairs this morning to everything looking lovely. This house is looking like a home again; I really can't thank Bill McCance and his team from Forces Support enough. I love it! You have no idea what a difference you have all made to my life. For the first time in 2 years and 4 months, I really wanted to get myself out of bed this morning xxx"

We received this 1 year on in January 2013:

"Thank you for everything you all did for me Bill, you gave me some control back and I have since moved into my Daughters flat and she and my 3 Grandchildren live in the house. Paris my Granddaughter not only has her own bedroom, but they have a safe garden to enjoy. They have never had a garden before. They have what they call Uncle Jamie's corner, which is helping them with the grieving process. You didn't just help me, everything you did is now helping 3 children who miss their Uncle very much - so thank you just doesn't seem enough xx"



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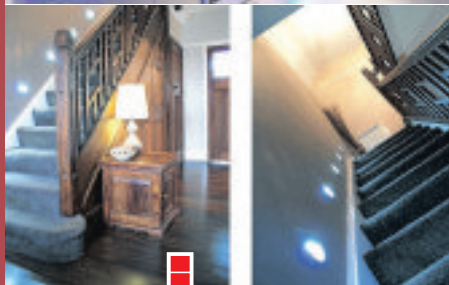
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NEWS

Court warning to firm over mound of rubbish

A WASTE management firm at the centre of a row over a rubbish mound in Brierley Hill faces a fresh court battle after officials claimed targets have been missed.

Environment Agency bosses said they will head back to court in their legal challenge against Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd, also known as RDF. The High

Court had ordered it to clean up the rubbish at the front of its Moor Street site by March 29. When the agency inspected the site they claimed this target had not been reached.

Residents living nearby, including in new homes on the former Royal Brierley Crystal site, demanded a clear-up after the pile once reached 40ft around

two years ago. Environment Agency West Midlands manager David Hudson, said: "Officers observed that waste and waste bales remained on the front part of the site."

He added: "As a result will be asking the High Court for further hearings."

RDF said bad weather over recent months has hampered the clean-up.

Delight for employer as engineers major award

A HALESOWEN engineering firm has been named one of Britain's top employers.

ERIKS UK received the certification from the CRF institute, which rewards businesses for strong performance in human resources, at the Westminster Park Plaza Hotel in London.

Helen Hill, corporate HR officer for ERIKS UK, collected the award at the Britain's Top Employers 2013 winners' ceremony, together with director Denny Wood.

Ms Hill said: "I'm absolutely thrilled that we've won the award."

"It's affirmation that we already do a lot of very positive things for our staff but this is just the beginning. Now we want to take it further and see where we can go to make things even better."

Judges at the event last month recognised the company's support for employees in terms of working conditions, training and personal and career development.

Ms Hill said: "The award shows that ERIKS is a responsible employer that looks after and develops its staff."

"Because we work to provide the best support, we can recruit the best people and develop their technical expertise to the benefit of the employee and the business."

The company, which is the UK arm of international firm ERIKS, provides services for a range of industries, from oil and gas to waste and recycling.

It employs around 350 staff at its site in Amber Way, Halesowen and 2,500 across its 70 UK service centres and workshops.



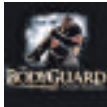
Helen Hill, left, and Denny Wood with their top employer award

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*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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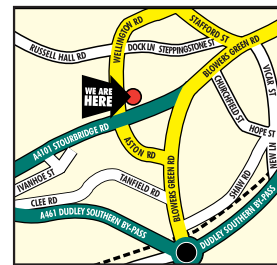
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NEWS

Outdoor gym in grounds of hospital is approved

AN outdoor gym to be used by patients and staff will be built in the grounds of Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital after the scheme was given the green-light.

Thousands in new equipment will be installed at the site, off Pensnett Road, as part of the project.

Dudley Council officials approved the scheme by delegated decision. They said the scheme would not have an adverse impact on the surrounding area.

Patients recovering from illnesses or operations will be able to use the new gym as part of their rehabilitation with staff demonstrating suitable exercises.

Hospital workers will also be able to use the equipment during their breaks - as part of a drive by Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust to provide staff with a healthier lifestyle.

It will be built on land to the left of the accident and emergency department and education centre.

Equipment to be installed as part of the scheme includes a cross trainer, fitness bike and a ski machine.

An area of hard-surfacing will also be laid down where the equipment will be placed.

Hospital bosses will now work to secure funding for the project after receiving the necessary permission.

Director of Urban Environment on Dudley Council, John Millar said: "It is considered the outdoor gym would relate satisfactorily to the existing area."

"The facility will form part of a wider health initiative and there will be no demonstrable harm to the neighbouring area."

Free swimming classes

PARENTS and toddlers can make a splash at new free swimming classes at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre. The 30-minute swimming sessions, which includes tuition from qualified instructors, on Tuesdays at 9.45am and 10.15am and Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2pm and 2.30pm.

Dad's the word for zoo



Co-ordinator Caroline Howard, with her father, Dr David Howard

DAD stepped in to help his daughter conference organiser Caroline Howard as Dudley Zoological Gardens played host to delegates from tourist attractions around the UK.

Caroline, a presenter for the zoo, brought in her father, Dr David Howard, from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, to speak about how climate change is having an effect on wildlife around the world - particularly on moths in the UK.

attractions attended the eighth annual British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) presenters' conference.

The event was aimed at giving staff ideas on how best to communicate messages to the public.

Conference co-ordinator Caroline said: "When I was thinking about the programme of speakers I decided I wanted someone with a scientific background to speak on climate change."

"I asked my dad who he'd recommend and he volunteered to do it."

More than 40 delegates from 20

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CLUB NEWS

Talk full of jokes and anecdotes

WORDSLEY M TWG

A GREAT atmosphere of friendship and light-hearted converse pervaded the March meeting when David Berry gave his talk on 'Humorous look at retirement' with the theme of life, love and laughter. With many tales, anecdotes and jokes, the meeting was a great success.

Pat Hadley gave the vote of thanks.

The Federation's annual lunch will be at The Mill, Alveley, on July 29 and the annual Inter-Guild quiz takes place on June 3 at Stourbridge Football Club.

Liz Hubbard gave details of the charity for the elderly set up by Esther Rantzen called 'Silver Lining'.

The next lunch club meets at 'The Bell, Kingswinford, on Monday May 13.

A coffee morning has been arranged at the home of Jan Pritchard on Wednesday, May 1 at 10.30am.

Mary Skidmore gave details of an event at Ashwood Nurseries where owner John Massey is throwing open his own garden to the public in aid of the Dudley White House Cancer Support.

The centre will be open on June 1 and July 20 at 10am to 4pm with all proceeds will go to the White House Cancer Support.

At the meeting on Monday May 20 Karon Turnock will talk about CHADD - Woman's refuge.

Guild given Hagley Hall history lesson

WOLLASTON 'E' TWG



Lord Cobham was the March meeting speaker

LORD Christopher Cobham was the guest speaker at the March meeting, which was well attended by 52 members and four visitors, all welcomed by chairman Jean Latham.

A minutes silence was observed for former member Peggy Littley. Secretary Sue Ward then read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were duly passed.

Treasurer Margaret Gregory gave a favourable report of the financial situation, followed by reports from the various sub-section leaders.

Lord Cobham gave an interesting talk on both the history of Hagley Hall and the family, he inherited approximately six years ago.

The house itself dates from the 18th century, when it was built for the costly sum of £12,500, by the first Lord Lytton.

Everyone enjoyed this humorous and enlightening talk and enquiries were made regarding public tours of the hall.

Refreshments were served and the raffle winners were Sue Llewellyn and Carol Longmore.

The May 14 meeting, at 7.30pm in St James church hall, incorporates the spring fair and floral demonstration.

Insight into an extra's life

KINGSWINFORD TOWNSWOMEN

FOLLOWING the reading acceptance and signing of the minutes the correspondence was read. Most important was the announcement of a national raffle with superb prizes.

Tickets will be on sale until May and the result announced at the national AGM in June at Harrogate.

Enid Fennell provided the flowers for the chairman's table. Joyce Major was presented with flowers in celebration of a special birthday.

The raffle prize was won by Kath Turner.

At the next meeting on May 13 John Moberley will give a talk on the decade 1940-1950.

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What's On! Halesowen

Starsky actor among star names for Grand season

Pop singer out of a salon can spray it again

WHEN he reached the final of The X-Factor and then had a hit, former Liverpool hairdresser Marcus Collins must have thought he would never have to wield a can of hair lacquer again.

However, his first big break in musicals has come in a revival of Hairspray, the 1960s-set soul musical featuring big performers and even bigger hair. The bouffant blockbuster comes to Birmingham Hippodrome from May 21 to June 1.

Former Crosby crimpers Marcus will play Seaweed J Stubbs, one of the coolest kids at a Baltimore high school and the love interest of Tracy Turnblad's best friend Penny Pingleton. Marcus, who finished second to Little Mix in 2011's The X-Factor, had a top ten hit last year with his cover of 'The White Stripes' Seven Nation Army and his self-titled debut reached number seven in the UK album chart.

The 24-year-old trained in musical theatre on Merseyside before he combined a career in hair-dressing with a stint in boy band Eton Road and then got his TV talent show breakthrough.

Playing big-hearted teen heroine Tracy will be newcomer Freya Sutton whilst the scene-stealing role of her mother Edna will be played by Waterloo Road actor Mark Benton. EastEnder Lucy Benjamin plays scheming TV executive Velma Von Tussle.



The X Factor's Marcus Collins as Seaweed Stubbs in the new touring production of hit musical Hairspray

TV cop 1970s heart-throb Paul Michael Glaser, who played David Starsky in Starsky and Hutch, is swapping the mean streets of 'Bay City' California for the stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre this autumn.

The 70-year-old American actor, who starred alongside David Soul as the streetwise cop famous for his woolly hat and chunky cardigans, is among star names recently announced for the Lichfield Street venue's 2013-14 season.

He will be trading in his famous red-and-white-stripe Ford Gran Torino for a milk cart to play Tevye the milkman in Fiddler On The Roof, about a Jewish family in Tsarist Russia.

Rich

Directed by Strictly Come Dancing judge Craig Revel Horwood, it is at the Grand from October 15 to 19.

The character Tevye and song If I Were A Rich Man were made famous in the 1971 movie by Chaim Topal. The then unknown Paul Michael Glaser was also in the film version.

Former Wet Wet Wet singer Marti Pellow plays narrator Che Guevara in



Paul Michael Glaser

Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Evita from August 19 to 31.

Maureen Nolan is on an emotional rollercoaster as Mrs Johnstone when Scouse musical Blood Brothers returns to the Grand from this Monday, April 29, to Saturday, May 4.

Reviews

Pink, LG Arena, Birmingham
PINK quite literally gave a demonstration in vocal gymnastics as she combined her singing with acrobatics.

She opened with Raise A Glass while suspended from a bungee, performed Try on a trapeze, sang Sober while swinging around in aerial cage and topped it, off somersaulting on a high wire for the encore So What!

She and her backing dancers showed boundless energy during the two-hour Truth About Love show, though heaven knows how she did The Walk of Shame in those high heels. Fun's Nate Ruess joined via video link for the duet Just Give Me A Reason, which PINK sang with such emotion, while she performed with just her guitarist for Who Knew and James Taylor's Fire and Rain, both of which showed the soulfulness of her voice.

The packed crowd was also treated to old material, including Just Like A Pill and Trouble, and she took us right back to where it all started with a medley of her hits from debut album Can't Take Me Home.

Signing autographs throughout, PINK was also showered with gifts by the frenzied crowd, but I doubt whether she's ever had any more unusual than a packet of ginger cheese. The accomplished Walk The Moon provided capable support to get the crowd going.

Mark Shipp

Beyond the Barricade, Grand Theatre
THIS touring production is back again and proving just as popular as ever.

This brand new production packed Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre and took the audience on a journey through West End and Broadway musicals, including songs from Miss Saigon, The Lion King, Phantom Of The Opera, Blood Brothers, The Jersey Boys and many more hit productions, climaxing with a spectacular finale from Les Miserables in which they excelled. Songs were well delivered and all four had good voices.

New Jersey Nights, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
HAVING seen the West End show Jersey Boys I thought that this was going to be a pale imitation - how wrong could I be?

New Jersey Nights follows the same path, a celebration of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, and this international smash hit show which has come direct from the USA for a UK tour had everything the West End show had - and more. Damon Scarellia, Duncan Heather, Jon Hawkins and Ricky Rojas took us on a musical trip.

Sue Attwater

Rich Hall, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
AMERICAN comic Rich hall said acts only played the Wulfrun twice - once on the way up and once on the way down - and he was making a return visit. Describing the home of the Chubb lock, as 'the safest town in Britain', Hall was spot-on with his comparisons between this country and his homeland. He even had the answer to why gun crime cannot be wiped out.

Mark Shipp

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What's On!

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SATURDAY'S TV 27.04.13

CHOICE



Margaret Thatcher
Young Margaret: Life, Love & Letters BBC2, 9pm
 The death of Margaret Thatcher earlier this month showed that even 23 years after she left Number 10, there are few other politicians who inspire such strong feelings in the British public. But how did she become such an influential and divisive figure, and were there any clues in her Grantham childhood that she would one day earn her place in the history books? This documentary tries to provide some answers by drawing on previously unseen correspondence and interviews with close members of the Thatcher family.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Triathlon. 2.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.10 BBC News: Regional News. Weather.
6.30 Doctor Who. Clara is trapped in the malfunctioning Tardis and pursued by monsters, leaving the Doctor just 30 minutes to find his companion before his beloved blue box self-destructs.
7.15 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.05 The Voice UK. Holly Willoughby and Reggie Yates present the penultimate week of blind auditions, with Jessie J, Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Danny O'Donoghue looking to complete their teams.
9.25 Casualty. A robbery at an off-licence ends in violence when the owner is stabbed – and it soon turns out he knows one of his attackers. A confused old man brings his dog in for treatment.
10.15 BBC News: Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Wigan Athletic v Tottenham Hotspur National Lottery Update.
12.05 The Football League Show. 1.25 Weatherview. 1.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.40 Film: Station West. (1948) 8.10 Film: Spellbound. (1945) 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 12.00 Faul Hollywood's Brat. (R) 12.30 Just a Minute. (R) 1.00 University Challenge. (R) 1.30 Talking Pictures. 2.05 Film: Notorious. (1946) 3.45 Coast. (R) 4.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 5.30 The Great British Sewing Bee. (R)
6.30 Flag III From Folkestone, Kent. (R)
7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the evening session on day eight at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where two second-round matches take place.
8.00 Dad's Army. Private Godfrey faces homelessness. (R)
8.30 QI. With Ross Noble, Dara O Briain, Jeremy Clarkson and Alan Davies. (R)
9.00 Young Margaret: Life, Love & Letters. Documentary examining the influences that shaped Margaret Thatcher's life and political career, featuring interviews with family members including her son Mark.
10.30 The United States of Television: America in Primetime. Alan Yentob examines the popularity of TV characters who are outsiders and misfits.
11.30 Blackpool: Big Night Out. The Lancashire seaside resort through the eyes of acts who have performed there. (R)
12.30 Snooker: The World Championship. 1.20 Snooker: World Championships Extra. 3.20 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Jungle Junction. 6.10 Jungle Junction. 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Animals. (R) 7.15 Animals. (R) 7.20 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.35 Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.00 Jessie. 8.25 Saturday Farm. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 10.20 My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) 11.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 12.20 ITV News. Weather. 12.35 Midsomer Murders. (R) 2.35 The Chase. (R) 3.35 Film: Uncle Buck. (1989) 5.30 Regional Programme. Weather. 5.45 ITV News. Weather.
6.00 New You've Been Framed! Favourites. Harry Hill narrates a selection of comical clips, featuring Annette Bening and Kim Jong-il lookalikes, below-the-belt mishaps, mischief and painful-looking accidents.
7.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec present the third audition show as more wannabe singers, dancers and variety acts try to impress judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon.
8.20 The Cube. A ballet dancer and a support worker try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks, hoping to win a jackpot of £250,000. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield.
9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. With Peter Andre and music by Rudimental.
10.20 ITV News: Weather.
10.35 Film: Commando. (1985) Action adventure, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.
12.20 River Monsters. (R) 12.50 Jackpot247. 3.00 Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.05 Kirstie's Homemade Home. 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 British Rallycross. 7.30 The Grid. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 10.05 Frasier. (R) 10.35 Frasier. (R) 11.10 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.40 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.10 The Simpsons. (R) 12.40 Secret Millionaire Ireland. 1.40 Channel 4 Racing. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.15 Come Dine with Me. Corset-maker Serine Daou hosts the final night in Reading, Berkshire. (R)
6.40 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses. Homeowners in Muswell Hill, north London, look around one another's flats for improvement ideas and then spruce up their own on a £1,000 budget, hoping to attract buyers. Postponed from April 13.
8.00 Grand Designs. Restoring two timber-framed barns in Suffolk. (R)
9.00 Film: Season of the Witch. (2011) Premiere. Two knights agree to escort a suspected witch to trial, but are not prepared for the horrific powers she possesses. Fantasy adventure, with Nicolas Cage.
10.45 Derren Brown Investigates: The Man with X-Ray Eyes. A man who believes he can teach blind people to see. (R)
11.50 Film: The Libertine. (2004) Premiere. Period biopic, starring Johnny Depp.
1.55 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.00 Deal or No Deal. (R) 4.55 Countdown. (R) 5.40 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.00 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) 12.00 Royal Navy: Submarine Mission. (R) 1.00 Film: Up Periscope. (1959) 3.15 Film: Run Silent, Run Deep. (1958) 5.00 Film: The Caine Mutiny. (1954) 7.20 5 News Weekend.
7.25 NCIS. The bodies of two dishonourably discharged officers are found on board a boat belonging to Gibbs – and subsequent inquiries cast suspicion on his mentor Mike Franks. (R)
8.15 NCIS. The team delves into Vance's troubled past in an effort to trap a vengeful assassin who is determined to strike back at him by targeting his family. Drama, starring Mark Harmon. (R)
9.15 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. The entrance of a popular food van is murdered, and the team's investigation leads to a link between the victim and an influential political family.
10.15 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A killer appears to be targeting members of the gay community.
11.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. The detectives investigate when two prostitutes are found murdered and the evidence leads them to a religious fanatic who thinks he is saving the women he kills.
12.10 SuperCasino. 3.55 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.45 County Secrets. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.15 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.35 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **9.00 Film:** Blades of Glory (2007) **10.25 Russell Howard's Good News 10.55 Family Guy 11.40 American Dad!**
BBC Four
7.00 South Pacific. 8.00 The Golden Age of Steam Railways. 9.00 Arne Dahl: Bad Blood – Part Two. 10.30 The Old Grey Whistle Test. 70s Gold
ITV2
2.20 Film: Toy Story (1995) 4.10 Film: Toy Story 2 (1999) 6.00 Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **7.50 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 8.20 Britain's Got More Talent 9.20 Totally You've Been Framed! 10.20 Celebrity Juice 11.10 Plebs 11.40 Britain's Got Talent**
ITV3
3.50 A Touch of Frost 6.00 Agatha Christie's Marple 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Lewis 11.00 A Touch of Frost
ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Rajasthan Royals v Sunrisers Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians v Royal Challengers Bangalore. 8.00 British Touring Car Championship Highlights 9.30 Film: Public Enemies (2009)
E4
5.30 The Mindy Project 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Youngers 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 8.30 2 Broke Girls 9.00 Film: John Tucker Must Die (2006) 10.45 The Big Bang Theory 11.45 The Cleveland Show
Film4
2.55 Porridge (1979) 4.45 Never Been Kissed (1999) 6.50 Last Holiday (2006) 9.00 The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) 11.20 The Number 23 (2007)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 28.04.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE	BBC1	BBC2	ITV	CHANNEL 4	CHANNEL 5	DIGITAL
<p>6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.20 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.20 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.20 Flog It! (R) 2.45 Points of View. 3.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Songs of Praise. 4.35 Great Bear Stakeout. (R) 5.35 The Diamond Queen. (R)</p> <p>6.35 BBC News: Regional News; Weather</p> <p>7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison visits Sudley Castle, Gloucestershire, and presents archive stories featuring the Bastle Houses of Northumberland and Northern Ireland's Mussenden Temple. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.</p> <p>8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts are in Farnborough, north-east Hampshire, where items include the Monopoly game used by the Great Train Robbers while in hiding and a mammoth's tooth.</p> <p>9.00 The Village. Joe struggles to hide his shell-shock from the family, but Grace knows something is seriously wrong – and when Bert tries to help he only makes matters worse.</p> <p>10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.</p> <p>10.25 Match of the Day 2. Colin Murray reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Arsenal v Manchester United, Chelsea v Swansea City and Reading v Queens Park Rangers.</p> <p>11.40 Regional Programme.</p> <p>12.10 Film: Mother's Boys. (1994). Thriller, starring Jamie Lee Curtis. 1.40 Weatherview. 1.45 BBC News.</p>	<p>6.00 This is BBC Two. 6.45 Film: Never a Dull Moment. (1950) 8.15 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.45 The A to Z of TV Gardening. 9.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. 11.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 12.30 EastEnders. 2.20 Live Snooker: The World Championship.</p> <p>6.00 Coast. The team explores stories linked to estuaries around the UK, with folk singer June Tabor examining superstitions surrounding the burial of sailors who died in shipwrecks. (R)</p> <p>7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the evening session on day nine at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where two second-round matches take place.</p> <p>8.00 Bill Bailey's Jungle Hero. Part two of two. The comedian heads to Indonesian archipelago the Moluccas.</p> <p>9.00 Rupert Murdoch: Battle with Britain. The media mogul's influence on the UK over the past 45 years.</p> <p>10.00 Mock the Week Looks Back at Britain. Another themed selection from the show's archives.</p> <p>10.30 It's Kevin. Bob the studio caretaker goes into hibernation. Last in the series.</p> <p>11.00 Snooker: The World Championship. Highlights from day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.</p> <p>11.50 Snooker: World Championship Extra.</p> <p>1.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.45 Holby City. (R) 3.45 This Is BBC Two.</p>	<p>6.00 CITV: Special Agent Oso. 6.10 Special Agent Oso. 6.25 The Hive. (R) 6.35 The Hive. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Dino Dan. (R) 7.05 Animals. (R) 7.15 Animals. (R) 7.20 Almost Naked Animals. (R) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 8.00 Sonny with a Chance. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Country House Sunday. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 10.20 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 11.20 ITV News: Weather. 11.35 Film: Columbo: A Friend in Deed. (1974) 1.35 You've Been Framed! (R) 2.05 Britain's Got Talent. (R) 3.20 Food Glorious Food. (R) 4.25 Film: Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home. (1995)</p> <p>6.15 Regional Programme: Weather.</p> <p>6.30 ITV News: Weather.</p> <p>6.45 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts a revival of the game show in which contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in the animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.</p> <p>7.30 Off Their Rockers. Featuring a woman who tries to park her mobility scooter between two cars, and an elderly couple asking a mobile-phone salesman for help with a popular video game.</p> <p>8.00 Endeavour. Morse becomes deeply embroiled in the affairs of a family-owned munitions factory and its dysfunctional owners following the murder of an unpopular worker.</p> <p>10.00 ITV News at Ten: Weather.</p> <p>10.15 The Olivier Awards 2013.</p> <p>11.45 The Unforgettable Mike Reid. (R)</p> <p>12.40 The Store. 2.40 Motorsport UK. 3.30 ITV News: Weather. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)</p>	<p>6.05 The Treacle People. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 Blancpain Endurance Series. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 The Simpsons. (R) 1.20 The Simpsons. (R) 1.50 Film: The Phantom. (1996) Superhero adventure, starring Billy Zane. 3.45 Deal or No Deal. 4.45 Five Minutes to a Fortune. 5.50 Film: Marmaduke. (2010) Premiere. Comedy, starring Lee Pace.</p> <p>7.30 Channel 4 News.</p> <p>8.00 The Secret Millions. Gok Wan works with a charity that offers emotional, educational and practical support to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, many of whom are homeless. Last in the series.</p> <p>9.00 Film: Love & Other Drugs. (2010) Premiere. A cynical womanising sales rep for a drugs company falls in love with a waitress with Parkinson's disease. Romantic comedy drama, with Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway.</p> <p>11.10 Film: Dangerous Minds. (1995) A former Marine retrainee as a teacher but struggles to earn the respect of her class of low achievers at an inner-city school. Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and George Dzundza.</p> <p>1.00 How Hip Hop Changed the World. The defining moments in the history of the genre. (R) 2.50 Inside Nature's Giants. (R) 4.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.00 SuperScrippers. 5.15 Deal or No Deal. (R)</p>	<p>6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Floortots. (R) 6.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 6.30 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.45 Chloe's Closet. 6.55 Roolbar and Custard Too. (R) 7.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.20 Animal Antics. (R) 7.25 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.35 City of Friends. (R) 7.50 Little Princess. (R) 8.00 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.15 Mio Mao. (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.30 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.45 Jelly Jamm. (R) 10.00 The Mr Men Show. (R) 10.15 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 10.20 Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) 10.55 Batman: The Brave and the Bold.</p> <p>11.20 Cowboy Builders. (R) 12.20 Film: The Fifth Element. (1997) 2.45 Film: Cheaper by the Dozen 2. (2005) 4.35 Film: Zathura: A Space Adventure. (2005)</p> <p>6.25 5 News Weekend.</p> <p>6.30 Film: Alone Came Polly. (2004) Romantic comedy, with Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston.</p> <p>8.00 Once Upon a Time. Belle is abducted by a man working for her father.</p> <p>9.00 The Truth About Travellers. New series. Henry McKean explores the lives of travellers in modern Ireland. 10.00 Film: Harry Brown. (2009) Premiere. Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine.</p> <p>12.10 Soho Blues. (R) 1.05 SuperCasino. 3.55 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.45 County Secrets. (R) 4.55 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 Angels of Larm. (R) 5.15 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.35 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)</p>	<p>BBC Three</p> <p>7.00 Great TV Mistakes 7.10 Snog, Marry, Avoid? 7.40 The Voice UK 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News Extra 9.45 Sarsly Legal Drivers 10.45 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad!</p> <p>BBC Four</p> <p>7.00 The Century That Wrote Itself 8.00 Christina: A Medieval Life 9.00 Neil Diamond: Solitary Man 10.00 Len Goodman's Dancing Feet: The British Ballroom Story 11.00 The Joy of Easy Listening</p> <p>ITV2</p> <p>3.35 You've Been Framed! 4.05 Keith Lemon: The Hot Desk 4.20 Britain's Got Talent 5.40 Britain's Got More Talent 6.40 Film: Twister (1996) 9.00 Film: Hot Fuzz (2007) 11.20 Celebrity Juice</p> <p>ITV3</p> <p>1.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 4.00 Film: Agatha Christie's Thirteen at Dinner (1985) 5.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot 8.00 Film: Parenthood (1989) 10.30 A Touch of Frost</p> <p>ITV4</p> <p>11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket 8.00 Film: From the Ashes (2011) Documentary about the 1981 Ashes series. 10.00 Film: LA Confidential (1997)</p> <p>E4</p> <p>3.40 How I Met Your Mother 4.40 Revenge 5.35 New Girl 6.00 The Mindy Project 6.30 Film: Failure to Launch (2006) 8.30 The Big Bang Theory 10.00 Darren Brown: Evening of Wonders 11.40 2 Broke Girls</p> <p>Film4</p> <p>2.50 Murder at the Gallop (1963) 4.30 The Hunt for Red October (1990) 7.10 Legend (1985) 8.00 Coming to America (1988) 11.20 Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995)</p>	

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Dentures with a difference – a plateless top denture with Ultra Suction

The Ultra Suction system is available for both top and lower dentures

The Ultra Suction system is available for both new prescriptions and reline dentures

Betty is free from pain after having implants

Transformations

Suction another solution



Making the transformation and providing a cost-effective solution for upper and lower denture stability, the Ultra Suction prosthetics use a clever diaphragm system to help provide wearers with greater dental security

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley and other clinics in Wolverhampton and Bearwood, says the invention has the potential to resolve issues with the poor stabilisation of dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragms principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Mr Burchell, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The denture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what I can describe only as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product.

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

'Toolbox'

"The beauty of this technology is that it can offer for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work.

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jaw bone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and create painful friction problems on gums.

Mr Burchell adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower palates and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste.

"The Ultra Suction kit increases the options in our clinical 'toolbox' and can provide affordable solutions to many patients who would not wish to pursue the stability resolve with implants.

"I remain passionate about the transformations good prosthetics can achieve."

Typically, patients will be encouraged to contribute their views to treatment plans and generally be assigned more than three-and-a-half clinical hours in achieving the best possible outcome.

A WOMAN who had suffered years of pain with two jaw conditions has finally found relief after undergoing dental implant surgery.

Betty had worn dentures for many years but developed neuralgia and her trigeminal nerve had become inflamed.

"I had terrible jaw pain and suffered pins and needles in the side of my head and tongue. It's a terrible condition. I had an MRI scan and had seen a specialist, but was still without relief," she says.

Clinical dental technician Mr Burchell had made dentures for Betty seven years ago and she returned to his clinic to inquire about a new prescription because the lower denture had lost its stability.

"I had put up with the floating effect of my lower denture and needed to address the problem. My lower gum had receded so much my denture was pressing down on a nerve and causing me pain," she adds.

"Steven explained the benefits of implant-retained dentures and told me it would allow my bite to be opened some more. Since having the implants on my lower denture, I have experienced no more pain."

Mr Burchell said all dentures have a shelf life and Betty's denture problem was due to shrinkage of her gums – a naturally occurring ageing process.

"We hoped for an improved outcome on her condition, but never dreamed that the final clinical result could be so rewarding with Betty being free from pain," he adds.

The Denture Clinic is at 82 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4TF. Don't suffer any longer – call 01902 539300 for a free consultation

We can also be found at the Fresh Dental practice, 4 St Mary's Road, Bearwood, Birmingham, B67 5DG. Call 01384 348594 to book an appointment

Film Choices

MONDAY
The Invasion, Channel 5, 10pm
 A psychiatrist investigating a mysterious, mind-altering epidemic discovers the cause is an alien spore from outer space. As the human race turns into a horde of emotionless zombies, she and a fellow doctor race to save her son, who may hold the key to halting the invasion. Sci-fi thriller, starring Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig and Jeremy Northam. (2007)

TUESDAY
The Aviator, BBC1, 11.05pm
 Martin Scorsese's Oscar-winning biopic focusing on the early years of movie producer Howard Hughes. A passion for flying dominated his life, as he embarked on increasingly ambitious aviation projects – earning powerful enemies. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Beckinsale, John C Reilly, Ian Holm, Alec Baldwin, Jude Law and Cate Blanchett. (2004)

WEDNESDAY
A Soldier's Love Story, Channel 5, 3.15pm
 A sergeant in the US Army serving in Afghanistan becomes a father figure to a lonely boy who writes to him from California. When the soldier returns from his tour of duty, he visits the youngster and begins to develop a relationship with the lad's divorced mother. Romantic drama, with Lori Loughlin and Johnny Messner. (2010)



The Aviator, Tuesday, BBC1, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
On Deadly Ground, Channel 5, 10pm
 A tough firefighter sets out to stop the destruction of native tribes and the natural environment by an unscrupulous oil company planning to drill in Alaska. Ecological thriller, directed by and starring Steven Seagal, with Michael Caine and Joan Chen. (1994)

FRIDAY
The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift, ITV, 10.35pm
 An American teenager who is sent to live with his father in Tokyo after a brush with the law becomes involved in illegal street racing. But when he ends up owing money to gangsters after losing a race against a driver with Yakuza connections, he has to learn to master the Japanese style of driving to win and pay back his debts. Action adventure, starring Lucas Black. (2006)
Dark Water, BBC1, 11.50pm
 Dahlia moves with her daughter into a run-down apartment during a messy divorce. As she struggles to cope with her custody battle, she is tormented by strange noises, an ominous leak in the ceiling and the growing fear that the flat has a sinister life of its own. When her daughter befriends an imaginary playmate, it confirms Dahlia's suspicions that something otherworldly is happening. Horror remake, with Jennifer Connelly. (2005)

Pick of the Week

Devastation awaits in a race against time

Actors have come and gone, and planets have been investigated, some in the blink of an eye.

But one constant in the world of Doctor Who is his trusty Tardis.

Its initials stand for time and relative dimensions in space, it was created by the Time Lords and was supposedly already out of date when the Doctor stole it so he could use it to explore the galaxy. Nevertheless, it still seems pretty cutting-edge to us.

As any self-respecting Whovian will be aware, these intergalactic craft can travel in time as well as space, and are supposed to have a working chameleon circuit that changes the ship's appearance so that it blends in with its surroundings wherever it materialises.

But the Doctor's machine has been stuck in the shape of a 1960s-style police box since the first adventure. An Unearthly Child, way back in 1963, when it was first seen standing in IM Foreman's junkyard on Totter's Lane in Shoreditch.

The decision to use a police box was originally down to economics – it was simply cheaper to use that prop rather than create something futuristic-looking. Anthony Coburn, while rewriting the sci-fi drama's opening episode, is credited with the idea, and deserves a massive pat on the back, not least from the BBC – the Tardis is now a registered trademark, and the corporation must have earned thousands of pounds from selling replicas over the years.

The Tardis is also bigger on the inside than it is on the outside, and contains many more areas than just the familiar console room.

We've had glimpses or heard hints of them before, but this week, we'll see a whole lot more when it's captured by a spaceship salvage team – with Clara trapped inside.

The Doctor persuades the motley bunch to help him find her, taking them on a journey into the heart of the Tardis none of them will ever forget.

"You will go to the heart of the Tardis, you'll see more of the Tardis more properly than you've ever seen before," promises Doctor Who showrunner Steven Moffat.

"Years ago when I was a kid, in the Radio Times there was a little article saying 'in this week's episode the many rooms of the Tardis are revealed.' I couldn't wait for Saturday. But there was a problem with the scenery and they shot it all in a disused hospital and it was so disappointing.

"I thought that some day I will do what I can to get into television and do it properly, and that worked out!"

A swimming pool was seen in that episode (The Invasion of Time, an adventure starring Tom Baker's fourth Doctor, and it was mentioned once more, along with a library, in Matt Smith's debut The Eleventh Hour). So will it turn up again?

"I'm not telling you anything except that there's a problem with a swimming pool," smiles Moffat.

Crkey – we can hardly wait to see what's in store!



Matt Smith stars in Doctor Who, Saturday, BBC1, 6.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Dave Allen: God's Own Comedian, BBC2, 9pm
 Ex-Skegness Redcoat, newspaper dogbody and strip show comedian Dave Allen drifted into showbusiness via a hit Australian series. The beloved Irishman spent more than three decades making people laugh with jokes on Catholicism, politics, sex and sin, before passing away in March 2005. Now there's a chance to refresh your memory of his greatness with this documentary featuring rare, often previously unseen, archive and interviews with family, friends and colleagues. Aside from Dave's son, daughter and widow, other interviewees include Maggie Smith, Stephen Frears and Steven Berkoff. There are also archive interviews with Bill Cotton.

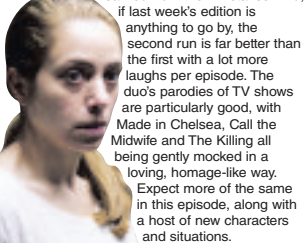
Vicious, ITV, 9pm
 No wonder ITV have been trailing this new sitcom for what feels like months – what channel wouldn't be proud of signing up Ian McKellen and Derek Jacobi for the leading roles? They star as Freddie (McKellen) and Stuart (Jacobi), who have been together for 50 years – and have spent most of it bickering. The first episode finds them hosting a wake for a pal, but their fellow mourners probably shouldn't expect much in the way of comforting words – and the buffet is a bit on the stingy side as well. However, the arrival of new neighbour Ash (Iwan Rheon) might inject a little life into the proceedings, especially if their pal Violet (Frances de la Tour) has got anything to do with it.

TUESDAY
Big Body Squad, Channel 5, 8pm
 As this rather interesting documentary continues, all attention is on Jane. At almost 40 stone, she's terrified of the outdoors and relies on a three-strong specialist ambulance team to ensure she gets to her hospital appointments. But they can't do it alone – they rely on their super-sized ambulance and kit, while Jane must summon all her strength to take those crucial steps out of the house. Meanwhile, cameras follow Lucille as she battles sleep apnoea, one of obesity's deadliest side effects. Plus, the show looks into the fact that a third of children are now classed as obese and wearing school uniforms in adult sizes.

WEDNESDAY
NCIS, Channel 5, 9pm
 It's time for Gibbs, Ducky and the rest of the team to celebrate – this week sees the broadcast of the long-running crime drama's 200th episode. The plot is suitably gripping and unforgettable too, with the team investigating the murder of a petty officer who may have been selling secrets to a foreign power. But it's what happens to Gibbs that proves to be the most intriguing development. After being shot at by a mysterious gunman, he has a series of visions of what might have been

if he and the team had taken different decisions. But why is all this happening, and is Gibbs really okay?

THURSDAY
Watson & Oliver, BBC2, 10pm
 Lorna Watson and Ingrid Oliver claim that seeing the first series of their sketch show on TV was like "waiting for exam results." They're also keen to point out that they don't mind that not everybody felt that all the gags worked, because this time, they feel they've learned from their mistakes. And, if last week's edition is anything to go by, the second run is far better than the first with a lot more laughs per episode. The duo's parodies of TV shows are particularly good, with Made in Chelsea, Call the Midwife and The Killing all being gently mocked in a loving, homage-like way. Expect more of the same in this episode, along with a host of new characters and situations.



The Ice Cream Girls, Friday, ITV, 9pm

of the drama, and the moment we've all been waiting for is here at last – Poppy and Serena are about to come face-to-face for the first time in 17 years. It's not exactly a happy meeting either – in fact, quite the opposite. Poppy is arrested for approaching her former friend and ends up back in jail as a result. Meanwhile, Serena's identity as the second Ice Cream girl is exposed. Evan is horrified and leaves with daughter Vee. Serena, believing she has nothing left to lose, decides to re-investigate the case of her teacher's death. But to do so, she must discuss the matter with Poppy – an event that causes several revelations to come to light...

The Genius of Marie Curie - The Woman Who Lit Up the World, BBC2, 9pm
 Marie Curie was quite a woman; not that you need us or this one-off docu-drama to spell that out for you. While 'genius' is a word thrown around all too easily these days, the Polish physicist and chemist is certainly deserving of that great compliment. Born in 1867, she became a celebrity during her lifetime, thanks to her pioneering research on radioactivity, and went on to become the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. Curie deciphered the theory of radioactivity, and discovered two elements, polonium and radium, but who was the woman behind the science? Geraldine James and David Maloney star in this tale about her life.

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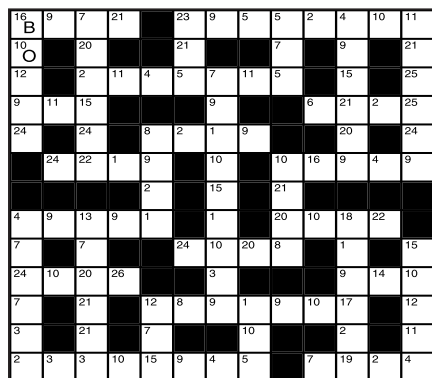
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.218

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

A	N	I	R	D	L	B	G	O	C	J	Y	W
X	H	M	E	V	S	T	F	U	Q	P	Z	K

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

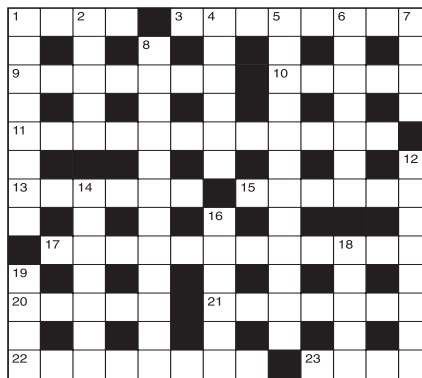
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Game unsuitable for women (4)
- Caution a girl (8)
- Essentially he tucked into a pastry dish (2,5)
- After a drink half the band provide dance music (5)
- Isn't it particular what it sells? (7,5)
- After the road is renovated it is showing skill (6)
- It goes round, applying pressure where needed (6)
- What one has to be in to engage in the class war? (8,4)
- Pieces of land in the Far East (5)
- Rings about train disaster in Canada (7)
- Sacked, no doubt! (2,3,3)
- Is the French description of Malta, perhaps (4)

Down

- Impress a sailor without his knowing! (8)
- Like a layer of wood (5)
- This snake is poisonous, yet a baby may play with it! (6)
- Hardly bright ideas! (4,8)
- Possibly one rule man has had to change (7)
- Times some of the rasher drivers (4)
- It's said to be a way to ensure a good stretch of repentance (5,2,5)
- It's used extensively by bandsmen (8)
- Wear and tear about an object (7)
- Sensitive plant (6)
- Monsters that help to make progress (5)
- It can give one airs, after a fashion (4)



Quick Clues:

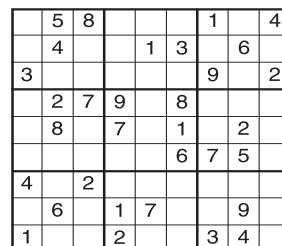
Across

- Quote (4)
- Crusade (8)
- Harmful (7)
- Morning reception (5)
- Ingrained habit (6,6)
- Foreign (6)
- Anew (6)
- Irrational belief (12)
- Distort (5)
- Raise (7)
- Maim (8)
- Exceedingly (4)

Down

- Box (8)
- Poisonous (5)
- Agree (6)
- Lowest RAF commission (5-7)
- Upside down (7)
- Requirement (4)
- Agreeing by chance (12)
- Stormy (8)
- Eye-specialist (7)
- Declare (6)
- Angry (5)
- Separate particular (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	4	3	1	8	9	2	7	6
2	3	9	5	7	4	1	6	8
8	1	7	6	2	9	5	4	3
6	7	1	4	8	5	3	9	2
3	8	4	9	6	2	7	1	5
9	5	2	1	3	7	6	8	4
4	2	5	7	9	6	8	3	1
1	9	8	2	5	3	4	7	6
7	6	3	8	4	1	2	5	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Enraged; 7 Get on; 9 Blunt; 10 Ribands; 12 Rear windows; 14 Staff nurses; 18 Toddler; 19 Lyric; 21 Sheep; 22 Stretch. Down: 1 Ingle; 2 Pavnee; 3 Net; 4 Relaid; 5 Low-down; 8 Riviera; 11 Printer; 13 Atrophy; 15 Fidget; 16 Elysee; 17 Pinch; 20 Sty. QUIJK - Across: 6 Appoint; 7 Minor; 9 Later; 10 Cushion; 12 Wooden spoon; 14 Part company; 18 Cavalry; 19 Amass; 21 Acted; 22 Ordered. Down: 1 Speak; 2 Bolero; 3 End; 4 Bishop; 5 Solomon; 6 Turnips; 11 Adjourm; 13 Balance; 15 Travel; 16 Number; 17 Askew; 20 Art.

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Home of Property

Bungalow with three bedrooms



This bungalow is on the market with Bairstow Eves and benefits from driveway, garage and rear garden

A THREE bedroom detached bungalow in Pool Lane, Oldbury, is for sale priced at £189,950.

The property benefits from central heating and double glazing (where specified) with accommodation briefly comprising of entrance hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, conservatory, family bathroom and the

three bedrooms - plus front driveway, garage and rear garden.

The fitted kitchen, 16ft 3in by 9ft 5in, has a range of wall and base units, roll top work surfaces, stainless steel sink drainer, five ring gas hob with cooker hood above, integrated oven and door to utility with plumbing for washing machine and dishwasher.

The lounge, 17ft 2in by 13ft 1in, has a feature brick fireplace with gas fire

point and double doors to a conservatory which is 12ft 7in by 10ft and has double doors to the rear garden.

There are three bedrooms and a bathroom with panel bath, shower cubicle, pedestal wash hand basin and WC. The rear garden has a paved patio area, lawn and well-stocked borders.

Call the agent Bairstow Eves on 0121 422 0090 for further information or to arrange a viewing.

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HALESOWEN, INKBERROW ROAD

A 3/4 bedroom town house located in central Halesowen on the popular Hurlands estate comprising modern fitted kitchen, large living room, 3 double bedrooms plus bedroom fourth study. Gas central heating. Double glazed throughout. Bathroom with shower. Driveway for 3/4 vehicles. Garage not included. Private rear garden. Not to be missed! EPC: D

£675 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, NEWLAND GARDENS

Spacious well situated link-detached bungalow in cul de sac position. Large lounge, fitted kitchen opening into superbly proportioned full with conservatory overlooking private rear garden. 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage & driveway, gas central heating/double glazed. Available immediately. Unfurnished or furnished to suit. EPC: D

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, WHITTINGHAM ROAD

The best position for Newfield Primary School and Halesowen College. This large 3 bedroom semi-detached house features fitted kitchen with double oven and gas hob, utility room/storage area, huge lounge with patio doors to a nice sized rear garden, modern bathroom with 'p' shaped bath and shower, driveway parking and garage. EPC: F

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, HOWLEY GRANGE ROAD

A large and unfurnished semi detached house in a well sought after location, close to local primary school and ideal for access to Birmingham and featuring gas central heating, 2 living rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, small rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: E

£625 PCM



HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with ensuite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B

£625 PCM



OLDBURY, ST MATTHEWS ROAD

Refurbished to a high standard. This 3 bedroom mid-terrace property in Oldbury/Quinton area has lounge, fitted kitchen, blow air central heating, white bathroom suite with shower, separate wc, rear garden with parking. Available immediately. EPC: D

£600 PCM



DUDLEY, STOURBRIDGE ROAD

Totally refurbished to a good standard with period features. A terraced four bedroom property close to Dudley town centre featuring a lovely entrance hall with mission flooring, charming lounge and separate dining room with feature fireplace, large new kitchen with overhead, downstairs wc, family bathroom with shower and a wonderful rear garden. Viewing recommended to appreciate this property. Available immediately. EPC: F

£595 PCM



HALESOWEN, BEAUMONT ROAD

Superb fully re-furnished traditional semi-detached house available end of April. 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazed. A must see property! EPC: E

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, NEW JOHN STREET

Well presented mid terrace house within walking distance to Blackheath. This large mid terrace house features 3 good sized bedrooms, gas central heating, lounge, fitted dining kitchen with range cooker, utility room, guest WC, bathroom with shower, large garden, driveway parking. EPC: D

£550 PCM



BARTLEY GREEN, LUDFORD ROAD

Located in the woodgate area, ideal for the local primary school, this newly decorated 3 bedroom semi detached house features fitted kitchen, large lounge, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking, mature rear garden. EPC: D

£525 PCM



TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE

Cul-de-sac location. This descriptively large 3 bedroom terraced house has undergone a renovation. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking and is in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC: C

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAWNE COURT

Located in a quiet, desirable neighborhood this well kept ground floor apartment is situated at the end of a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built in appliances, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space with garage. EPC: D

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, ADAMS COURT

Conveniently located for local shops and buses to Halesowen and Stourbridge. A large and spacious ground floor apartment features modern decor and features and benefits from gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with white goods, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, allocated parking space. EPC: C

£525 PCM



TIPTON, MONARCH DRIVE

A lovely traditional semi detached home briefly comprising of, living room, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway parking, front and rear gardens. Viewing essential. EPC: C

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, SEEDHOUSE COURT

Set within lovely private gardens. Ideally located for Old Hill train station, local shops and buses for Cradley Heath, Halesowen and Merry Hill, a part furnished ground floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, spacious lounge with sofa and dining table and chairs, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: D

£475 PCM



HALESOWEN, STOUR COURT

Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood. This well kept 1st floor apartment is situated in a peaceful cul de sac. Offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built in cooker and hob, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, HALAS COURT

Secure gated access and your own private balcony. An unfurnished top floor modern apartment, accessible by communal lift, close to local shops, train station, and bus routes, comprising a lovely light lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, communal gardens, secure parking area, internal inspection recommended. EPC: B

£450 PCM



LYE, HIGH STREET

Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment features a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good size bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. Available now. EPC: F

£450 PCM



NETHERTON, ST GEORGES ROAD

Spacious and quiet. A totally refurbished 1st floor apartment featuring electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen with a fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. EPC: D

£425 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Set in the heart of Old Hill. A modern and spacious 2nd floor apartment, ideally situated for Old Hill train station and shopping in Cradley Heath. This apartment offers 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, modern bathroom with shower, large lounge, 1 allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed! EPC: B

£425 PCM



OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

Discriptively large and spacious. A split level apartment above local shops, within walking distance to bus links for Langley and Oldbury and close to J2 of the M5. Comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, with the added bonus of a porch, unfurnished. EPC: D

£400 PCM



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£80,000

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EPC C

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A modern terraced property comprising lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, two bedrooms, gardens and ample parking spaces. Halesowen.

Hillside Avenue, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £110,000

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Victoria Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £60,000

This is a well presented first floor apartment with accommodation comprising lounge, kitchen, bedroom and allocated parking. Halesowen.

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Jaguar's sensational F-Type answers hype

By Ian Dooley

It's been a long wait, but finally it's here. Jaguar's F-Type has had one of the longest build-ups of any car in recent years, but all the hype now has to stop and the car itself is required to do the talking.

Jaguar says the F-Type is its first 'proper' sports car in 52 years, and as the name suggests, it has to follow in the footsteps of the E-Type. Massive shoes to fill, of course, but view one alongside the other and you can see lineage, not pastiche. The F-Type nods to its great-grandparent in the cut-off nose and high rear deck, but it's a thoroughly modern design.

It pulls the neat trick of looking sensational in a range of colours and the option of light or dark wheels gives extra scope for tailoring. Looks-wise, it's a solid-gold hit. And it's clever with it, being sculpted out of aluminium just like the bigger XJ saloon. That helps to keep the weight down while remaining as strong as a conventional steel structure, and ups the recyclability too.

It's a convertible only, of course, but the wise decision to stick with a fabric roof means a 12-second raising or lowering routine and noughtily design compromises. It's a strict two-seater and the boot is modest but you could fit a generous weekend's luggage in there



The superb new Jaguar F-Type combines style with power



Stunning looks evoke the Jaguars of old including the E-Type

without having to skimp. Approach the door and you press a button to pop out the flush-fitting door handle – a feature that keeps the overall design slick – and drop into the driver's seat.

It's snug but not cramped, and aside from the button-covered steering wheel, the cabin is a lesson in simplicity. A row of straightforward switches, the familiar Jag touchscreen and neat climate controls complete the job. The joystick-like gear lever encourages you to 'fire' it when selecting Drive by pushing the trigger-like button; a clever ploy to get you in the mood.

The three-model range comprises of the F-Type V6, F-Type V6S and the top V8S. But there's no such thing as an 'entry-level' model here. The only thing telling them apart is a discreet badge front and rear plus quad exhaust pipes on the V8S. Fire it up and there is a sur-

prisingly strident crackle from the exhaust, another area where there has been effort expended to deliver the right kind of feel. Set off in the standard V6 and there's an instant feeling of 'rightness'. The steering is quick and accurate but smooth, the ride quality is immediately impressive while remaining in firm touch with the road.

Squeeze

Left to its own devices, the eight-speed automatic shifts quickly and smoothly and you can surf along on the generous torque.

It's sporty, but it's still a Jaguar. It won't be long before you want to up the pace and you have a choice in how you go about this.

A simple squeeze of the accelerator releases another chunk of torque while the gearbox will shift down if required, but ideally you'll hit the

switch to put it into Dynamic mode. Depending on the model, this opens up the exhaust, sharpens throttle and gearbox response, stiffens the suspension and reduces assistance to the steering. The most dramatic change comes in the noise from the exhaust. Squeeze the accelerator hard and you get a sophisticated but vocal rasp, and when you back off there's half-a-dozen loud crackles too. You'll do it on purpose just to hear it over and over.

Smooth and effortless though it is, the F-Type really shines when pressing on. The surety of its responses instils plenty of confidence, and as you start to push it harder through challenging bends, it just keeps on gripping, staying flat and controlled whatever the surface is doing.

It deals with broken surfaces remarkably well, but you can tweak all the individual

Dynamic settings and soften the suspension again if desired. Even if you don't, it's never harsh. It's unquestionably fast too.

The F-Type starts with 335bhp, and if you never sampled the more powerful versions, you'd think it was plenty. With eight gears to flick through, the supercharged V6 spins up quickly and always has torque to spare.

But if you can spare the extra cash, the 375bhp of the V6S is welcome. On the other hand, the V8S is a monster; the chassis is more than capable of coping with almost 490bhp, and the resulting acceleration, speed and noise are truly breathtaking – it's a devilish delight.

We've waited patiently for the F-Type and been thoroughly primed for its arrival, but the truth is Jaguar has delivered a truly superb car.

It has the looks and performance beyond what you might hope for, but better than that, it also rides superbly, is easy to use and has some smart design too. For sports cars at least, 2013 belongs to Jaguar.

Bumper to bumper

Car: Jaguar F-Type V6S
 Engine: 3.0-litre petrol unit producing 375bhp and 339lb.ft of torque
 Transmission: Eight-speed automatic driving the rear wheels
 Performance: Top speed 171mph, 0-62mph in 4.9 seconds
 Economy: 31mpg combined
 Emissions: 213g/km of CO2
 Price: £67,250

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Motoring

I see a new Punto and I want it painted Jet Black



The striking Punto Jet Black which Fiat is aiming at the young, sporty audience....but there only 300 for sale

Fiat has announced the introduction of a striking new limited edition version of its popular Punto supermini, the Punto Jet Black.

Featuring a dark and moody exterior, the car is designed to appeal to a young, sporty audience and offers great value for money.

Priced at just £12,000 OTR, it is available with a highly competitive 0 per cent PCP offer for just £99 per month.*

Limited to just 300 examples, the

three-door Punto Jet Black is on sale now throughout the UK Fiat dealer network so buyers will have to be quick to get one. It is available with the nippy yet frugal 1.4 8v 77hp engine, and includes a number of eye-catching features:

Crossover Black Metallic paint
Jet Black badging
Matt black stripes
17 inch 12-spoke smoked Sportline alloy wheels

The new Punto Jet Black standard specification also includes body coloured rear spoiler and side skirts, leather steering wheel and gear knob,

automatic climate control, dark tinted privacy glass, electric front windows, rear parking sensors, sports suspension, adaptive cornering fog lights, cruise control, Start & Stop, voice-controlled Blue&Me multimedia system and five airbags.

"The Punto Jet Black has striking black exterior details which will certainly get you noticed," says Elena Bernardelli, Marketing Director, Fiat Group Automobiles UK.

"With its distinctive styling, comprehensive specification and affordable pricing, I am sure it will be very popular with younger customers."



The 2 is just one of several Mazdas available on special deals including 0 per cent finance and no deposit

Tempting new finance deals across whole Mazda range

NEW finance offers across the Mazda range could see buyers securing a new car with no deposit from £169 per month.

Customers buying a new Mazda 2, 3, 5 or MX-5 can take advantage of a PCP finance agreement at 0 per cent interest over 42 months, and no customer

deposit is necessary - although one can be applied if desired.

The same models also qualify for a deposit contribution from Mazda. The 2 attracts a £200 benefit, with the 3 automatically receiving £1,000 towards its cost, the MX-5 £2,131 and the Mazda 5 £2,500.

It means that as well as the 2 being available from £169 per month, the 3 hatchback costs from £249 per month,

the MX-5 from £255 and the 5 people carrier from £295, when buying through the special PCP deal.

The new Mazda 6 saloon and CX-5 compact SUV are also on offer, with 5.9 per cent interest finance available with no deposit required on a 42-month PCP agreement.

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Finance Example - Cash Price £3995, Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500 Amount Of Credit £3495, Total Amount Payable £5493.60 48 Monthly Payments of £103.20 or 208 weekly payments of £23.82

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SPORT

Fast work pays off as George triumph

The George 222 Moseley CC 184

FIRST TEAM bowlers from The George had to work hard for victory on a fast home green in Warwick and Worcester Premier Division One.

Moseley got off to a good start and led their Oldbury opponents by nine shots after the first four games, with Paul Greene (21-15) the only home winner.

The second four made wins with Shane Day (21-9) Paul Hemming (21-13) and Steve Dicken (21-15) giving The George an eight-shot advantage.

A strong back four saw wins by three of The George's county players, Phil Clinton (21-5) Steve Darling (21-7) and Pete Davenport (21-15).

Cradley S&S 244 The George 180

The seconds were beaten by an in-form Cradley side in a South Staffs Premier Division encounter. Cradley were 17 shots up after four games, Paddy McGuinness (21-16) the only visiting winner.

Neil Hopwood (21-19) and Eric Winstone (21-20) also won for The George.

Barbarians do damage to visiting side

Birmingham Barbarians 26 Bloxwich 15

THE Birmingham Barbarians had a double victory – one of them on the field.

Midlands Five West (North) opponents Whittington withdrew, leaving the Perry Barr-based club avoiding bottom spot by taking the points. In their place, Birmingham turned over Bloxwich at their Moor Lane HQ.

Skipper and scrum-half Roy Fisher drew first blood on 11 minutes with a trademark try as he weaved his way from a tap penalty to touch down in the corner.

Centre Jordan Kemp ran in an interception try from 35 metres, the first of two in a fine performance.

Mark McNulty made a welcome return to the side and his influence told just before the break with a pushover try. The visitors responded with two late tries but the damage had been done leaving the Barbarians victorious.

Driveshaft failure sours Breeze's victory weekend

Motor racing

WEDNESBURY team Total Control Racing claimed the second and third wins of their 2013 Michelin Ginetta GT Supercup campaign at Donington Park.

Defending champion Carl Breeze took the victories, although a driveshaft failure soured the event for TCR.

Qualifying on pole position for Saturday's fourth round, the 2012 title winner made a superb getaway and led despite heavy pressure from Tom Ingram.

Starting Sunday morning's fifth round from pole again, Breeze headed home Ingram in another hotly-contested encounter. He won by just 0.2 seconds.

Sadly for Breeze and TCR, the champion wasn't able to take up his place on the grid for round six when a driveshaft failure – frustratingly a new part – occurred on his way from the assembly area.



Scott Faulkner gives it some gas in the forest sections
Picture: Stuart Woodier, www.rallyaction.co.uk

Faulkner and Adams have drive for 13th-place finish

Rallying

SOLIHULL driver Scott Faulkner finished 13th overall in Saturday's Butlins Somerset Stages rally.

He and co-driver Dom Adams took their Cab Auto-backed Mitsubishi Evo Nine to second place in Class N4 (current and former FIA Group N cars over 2000cc) in the event, which got under way at Minehead.

Some 150 crews set out in the competition, won by Irishman Connor McCloskey and Francis Regan in

their Subaru Impreza WRC. Faulkner is now fourth overall in the (BTRDA) British Trial & Rally Drivers Association's REIS-Get Connected Gold Star Championship.

Birmingham's Andy Bull co-drove for Taunton's Harry Threlfall in the Renault Twingo, winning their class RF1.6 and finishing 78th overall.

Girls book final place with goal by Stokes

Halas Hawks

Girls League Halas Hawks U17 1 Wordsley Wasps U17 1

HALAS booked themselves a place in the League Cup final with this hard-fought win over Wordsley.

They started brightly and their pressure told when Dulce Williams scored from close range.

The visitors equalised just after the break. But Halas grabbed the winner as Gemma Stokes lifted in a shot from a rebound.

Halas Hawks U15 2 Wyre Forest U15 2

A weakened Halas side managed to share the spoils with Wyre Forest thanks to two goals from Amy Blake-more.

Boys League Kingsley Olympic U9 East 0 Halas Hawks U9 East 4

Halas found their scoring boots after a recent failure to put away chances.

At half-time, they led through Aiden Mitton's goal. Second-half goals came from Luke Nock and James Knight with a second for Mitton.

Kewford Eagles U10 West 4 Halas Hawks U10 West 1

Champions Halas played an experimental side in their final match of the season.

Substitute Harvey Brookes scored their only goal after some fine work by Jayke Adams.

Man of the match Altrin Aleshqi twice shot wide.

CS Colts U11 0 Halas Hawks U11 East 3

This was arguably the best win of the season for Halas.

They went one up after Jake Crackett was brought down in the area, Charlie Greening converting the penalty, and added a second when Zac Keremo scored at the near post from a corner.

Halas finished off the game halfway through the second half when Oliver Miller finished well.

West Hagley U15 8 Halas Hawks U15 3

The under-15s were unable to come back from a seven-goal half-time deficit despite an Adam Higginson hat-trick in the second half.

Bilbrook U16 0 Halas Hawks U16 3

Halas were worthy winners at Bilbrook with goals from Mitchell Tomlinson, Reis Potter and Josh March.

They remain in title contention, but have nine matches to play in a month.

Albion redeemed by second-half display

Albion 1 Newcastle 1

THE latest instalment of Albion's season encapsulated the whole campaign in 90 minutes.

It just happened to be in reverse, writes Steve Madeley.

The Hawthorns draw against Newcastle was disjointed, frustrating and underwhelming at the start but purposeful, exciting and impressive by the end.

It was pretty much the opposite of the season the Baggies are producing in their first year under Steve Clarke's guidance.

It was a day of contrasting emotions at Albion HQ, from poignancy and pride before the game, to irritation and anger early on, to enjoyment and relief at a second-half display that reminded everyone just why Clarke's men sit in a hugely pleasing Premier League position despite a fragmented second half to their campaign.

English

It was a red-letter day for Billy Jones, the scorer of Albion's equaliser.

The full-back became the first Englishman to score for the club in the Premier League this season as he grabbed his maiden Baggies goal to earn Clarke's side a point they deserved in spite of a first-half display as poor as home fans have seen since the no-show against Villa in September.

If beating Liam Ridgwell in the fight for English goalscoring honours pleased Jones, the latest all-action performance of his most impressive run of form since joining the club must have delighted him.

The former Crewe and Preston player's apparent coming of age in the last month has been arguably the most encouraging aspect of a post-Christmas period in which Clarke's side have struggled to maintain the soaring standards they set back in the autumn.

The afternoon began with a moving tribute to one of the Baggies' finest servants as 25,671 people, including his widow and daughters, gave a standing ovation to Dave



Billy Jones slots his left-foot shot home to equalise for Albion against Newcastle

Matthews, the kitman of more than half a century whose unexpected passing last week left so many former colleagues at the club stunned and saddened.

Memories of Matthews and the moments of reflection put into perspective anything that followed. But Clarke's men had a job to do and for much of the first half they were unable to get themselves out of first gear.

If the mission for Albion was to prove that Premier League safety has not blunted their competitive edge, then the opening 45 minutes on Saturday was a resounding failure.

The second half, however, suggested they have enough reserves of desire and commitment in their collective tank to fuel them for the final five games of the season.

So, by the final whistle, it was impossible to determine for certain which period best

represented the current state of the Baggies' psyche. There was little before half-time to show they were up the fight as a Newcastle side, still looking nervously over their shoulders, had things far too easy.

When Albion had the ball, they failed to keep it. When the visitors had possession, Clarke's men did not do nearly enough to force Alan Pardew's outfit into mistakes. The result was a one-sided half in which the Magpies claimed a justified lead and could so easily have found themselves out of sight.

They struck on nine minutes when Yoan Gouffran glanced a Pappis Cisse cross past a flat-footed Ben Foster as Albion gave the pair the freedom of the penalty area. They might have claimed further reward when Foster made smart saves from Steven Taylor and Yohan Cabaye, and when Cisse intercepted a dreadful Jonas Olsson pass but sent a disap-



Baggies' Graham Dorrans at full stretch

pointing shot over the crossbar.

But Albion, who were denied a possible penalty late in the first half, were a team transformed in the second. Toon keeper Rob Elliot had to redeem himself quickly with a smart save when he dropped a Marc-Antoine Fortune shot at the feet of half-time substitute Shane Long, and a re-energised Romelu Lukaku headed against the crossbar from a corner.

It came as little surprise when Fortune, James Morrison and Lukaku linked up to create the equaliser on 64 minutes, although few would have tipped right-back Jones as the man to provide the cool, left-footed finish.

Morrison had the chance to give Albion all three points, only for Elliot to save his late header. But a point apiece was a fair outcome.



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Big win hands Hales the title

Northwich 7 Old Halesonians 41
OLD HALESONIANS RFC were crowned Midlands One West rugby union champions with a resounding win at Northwich.

The Wassell Grove side went into the penultimate game of the season knowing a bonus point win would be enough to clinch the title and promotion. They duly blew away the hosts, effectively ending the game as a contest in the first half as they ran in five tries.

Hales were on the offensive from the first whistle and took an early lead when their dominance of the forward line allowed Rich Taylor to score.

With the home side on the back foot, winger and top try scorer Luke Smith quickly added a second and then turned creator, setting up Loz Breeze for the third score to make it 17-0.

A sweeping move from the backs brought the all-important fourth and bonus point try on the half hour, as Carl Robinson set up Simon Sabel to score in the corner.

Hales did not take their foot off the gas and went further ahead before the break when a perfectly-executed scrum move allowed Carl Robinson to score. Chris Hooper added the conversion to make the half-time score 29-0.

In the second half the visitors went further ahead through a breakaway try scored by replacement winger Joe Oxford. He added a second soon after, before the hosts regained a modicum of respect by adding a late converted score under the posts.

Hales host Lichfield at Wassell Grove this Saturday in their final league fixture.

George, the bowls toast

BOWLERS from The George, Oldbury, retained their Midland Team Championship crown.

In the first round at the M&B club, Edgbaston, they turned in a good performance to see off a strong Chads Moor side by 154-123.

In the semi-finals they put in another steady performance to beat Hadley USC 159-135. The final turned out to be an all-Warwick & Worcester affair with The George overcoming Kings Heath Park 154-121 to take the £400 prize money.

More bowls - Page 51

Draw leaves Yeltz just outside play-off spot

Halesowen Town 1 Stamford 1

HALESOWEN TOWN had to settle for a point in the Evo-Stik First Division South play-off chase after a tough encounter against fourth-placed Stamford.

Tuesday night's result left the Yeltz two points behind Chasetown, who occupied the final spot. Sutton Coldfield were a point behind Halesowen but were playing last night at Carlton Town.

Ben Haseley hit an 11th-minute shot straight at Stamford goalkeeper Matt Finlay and Dan Parker's header was cleared off the line from the resulting corner.

The Yeltz took a 17th-minute lead after

Halesowen Town

Mitchell Botfield's free-kick struck the crossbar and Jean-Michel Gueyes followed up to convert. But the lead lasted barely 60 seconds as Jordan Hempstal equalised when his shot deflected past goalkeeper Paul Evans straight from the re-start.

Late in the first half, Aaron Griffiths flashed a shot wide of the Stamford goal.

The Yeltz made all the running after the interval but could not find the vital winning goal with both Botfield and Haseley driving just wide early in the second half.

As the home pressure mounted, Haseley

scooped a 69th minute cross from Tom Warner over the bar, although Evans stayed alert to save a stinging 74th minute shot from James Ozmen at the other end.

With Halesowen's late urgency increasing, Stamford's Danny Brooks cleared off the line from Botfield in the 76th minute. With two minutes remaining, Finlay tipped Botfield's free-kick over the bar before Lewis Chalmers' blistering drive was cleared off the Yeltz line.

Hucknall 0 Halesowen Town 4

Hucknall were up against it right from the start on Saturday and Jean Michel Gueyes almost gave the Yeltz the lead in the first minute but dragged his shot wide. But

on 22 minutes the first goal came when Mitchell Botfield passed to Ben Haseley, who was on to the ball in a flash to score.

Botfield was also instrumental in the second goal on 36 minutes when he fed Haseley in to score his 39th goal of the season. He was denied two or three times in the second half and Tom Warner went close, hitting the woodwork and firing just wide.

The third came from an unlikely source when Yeltz substitute Ricky Baker's saw a corner palmed into the net by the Hucknall goalkeeper. Right on full-time, Brendan Kelly's free-kick hit the home side's Josh Stolworthy on the head a flew into the net.

Squad in top three placings

HALESOWEN Swimming Club finished in the top three in round one of the Nuneaton Junior League.

Boldmere and City of Coventry A 23, the pace in the six-team event.

Winning both their individual races were James Cuthbert in the freestyle and breaststroke and Katherine Morrice in the butterfly and freestyle.

Other individual Halesowen winners were India Hanke (breaststroke) and Jakob Baker, Oliver Bradley-Wood and Ben Meakin (freestyle).

The nine-year-old boys relay team comprising Gregory Shepherd, Lochann Mitchell, Dermot Cameron and Harry Jacques won both the freestyle and medley relay. The 12-year-old boys medley relay team with Euan Vaughan-Hawkins and Jack Simpson also came first.

Representing the club for the first time were Elitia Green, Georgia Harper-Neale, Lily Merrell, Kheera Sandhu, Eleanor Stark, Esme Taillard, Bradley-Wood, Cameron, Jacques, Mitchell and Shepherd.

Result: Boldmere 252, City of Coventry A 223, Halesowen 206, Chase 151, Kingsbury Aquarius A 144, Northgate 84.

Bulldogs look to strengthen

TRAINING is under way as Birmingham Bulldogs Rugby League FC look to strengthen their squad for the new season in the Midlands Premier Division.

Training is at Aston Old Edwardians RUFC, Perry Common, on Wednesdays at 7pm with all invited.

For more details on the club, call Matt Skitt on 07971 964570.

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BAGGIES INVEST IN YOUTH AT NEW HUB

ALBION'S academy has officially moved to its new £1.3m base opposite The Hawthorns.

The Baggies' youth set-up moved into the site in Halfords Lane after more than six months of renovation work.

The club have converted the former Tom Silk Building, which housed the Albion Foundation until last year, into dressing rooms and classrooms.

A car park between the new academy building and the Baggies' indoor pitch has been turned into an outdoor surface to be used by Albion's youngsters.

The work in Halfords Lane is part of an overall project worth £2.5m to upgrade academy facilities, with money also being spent on pitches at the Great Barr training ground.

Albion have committed £3m a year to fund player development after being awarded category one status - the highest ranking - in the Premier League's Elite Player Performance Plan.

Nurture

Sporting and technical director Richard Garlick said: "The new facilities are part of the club's wider investment in the academy.

"We are endeavouring to create the best environment in which to develop and nurture young talent.

"When the Premier League saw our plans for the redevelopment of the Halfords Lane site, they described it as 'the creation of a footballing hub' - and we believe that is exactly what we have achieved."

The new building will house the Baggies' 20 academy staff and will be used by more than 200 players aged between six and 18, whose academic education takes place at the neighbouring Sandwell Academy School.

by Steve Madeley

Baggies academy Manager Mark Harrison said: "We now have fantastic purpose-built facilities located on one site."

Meanwhile, Billy Jones has insisted that the chance to be record-breakers will spur on Albion to end their season in style.

The Baggies full-back has set his sights on a trio of Hawthorns records to cap an impressive first campaign under Steve Clarke. Jones reckons all three milestones are in their sights despite a run of just two points from their last four games.

"We want to reach 50 points, finish within the top eight and get the record number of wins in the Premier League," said Jones. "Those targets are still the same and they are still achievable with five games to go."

Albion are three points away from chalking up their best-ever Premier League points total with the 47-point haul they achieved in the last two seasons currently the mark to beat. They need one more victory to amass their most wins in a Premier League season - they are currently level with last season's total of 13.

A finish of ninth place or above would represent their highest position at the end of a Premier League campaign.



Albion full-back Billy Jones celebrates his goal against Newcastle with Graham Dorrans



Albion's Tony Grealish

Ex-Albion midfielder dies at 56

FORMER Baggies and Walsall star Tony Grealish has died at the age of 56 after a battle with cancer.

Tigers' midfielder Grealish played for Albion 74 times between 1984 and 1986, scoring five goals in the top flight as he linked up with ex-Coventry star Steve Hunt. He died at his Devon home on Monday.

Remembered for his combative style and beard, Grealish was signed by Hawthorns boss Johnny Giles from Brighton, who he captained as 1983 FA Cup final runners-up against Manchester United.

An Albion spokesman said: "Albion are saddened to hear of the passing of former midfielder Tony Grealish."

After spells at Manchester City and Rotherham, Grealish finished his league career with the Saddlers.

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SPORTS STUDENT PICKED FOR ENGLAND



Stourbridge College Sports student, Kieran Morris from Stourbridge, has been selected for the English Schools' Football Association Under 18 England squad - one of only 16 footballers nationally to have been chosen - after attending their series of local and regional trials and their Summer Coaching & Development Course.

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COLLEGE BUILDS FOUNDATION FOR FOOTBALL

Stourbridge College, in partnership with the University of Worcester, has developed a Foundation Degree in Football Business Management and Coaching - one of the first courses of its kind available in the country. The course, which will be delivered at Stourbridge College's Centre of Sporting Excellence in Kidderminster, has been developed to provide a clear progression route for young footballers after completing their BTEC or A Level Qualifications, leading to opportunities for careers in the football industry or to give them a foot up to studying for a full honours degree.

STUDENT HEAD SHOTS

OUR SPORTS SUCCESS



BECKY NETS ENGLAND CALL
Becky Tildesley is studying for a sports qualification and has represented England in the national under 17s Netball Europe Event. She started playing netball when she was 10 and plays in the National Talent League for West Midlands Warriors.



CONNOR BOXES CLEVER
Connor Jones, studying on Stourbridge College's Boxing Academy, has been boxing since he was 7 and is taking part in the Amateur Boxing Association Championships 2013 with hopes to represent England in the future.



GEORGE COURTS TENNIS SUCCESS
George Southall, studying for a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport, has been playing tennis for over 8 years and competes at least once a month. He has taken part in the British Colleges Sport Championship squad, reaching the final of the Regional rounds of the Men's Singles Tennis Championships and has competed in the National Championships recently.

GOLF COURSE FOR STUDENTS TEES OFF

Stourbridge College's new Golf Academy will be teeing off in September this year in partnership with Hagley Golf and Country Club, offering students the chance to gain a sports qualification alongside professional golf coaching. Recruitment has already started with a group of prospective students meeting college lecturers and golf club staff at the Hagley Driving Range to find out more about the course.



DATES TO LOOK OUT FOR!

Boxing Academy Taster Event on Tuesday 14th May 2013 between 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm at the Lion's Boxing Club, Brierley Hill, DY5 3RA.

Female Football Trials on Thursday 23rd May 2013 at 5.30 pm at the Centre of Sporting Excellence, Brinton's Field, Kidderminster, DY11 7DY.

**VISIT CHOICE EVENT - Thursday 2nd May - 6.00pm until 8.30pm
Hagley Road Centre, DY8 1QU for ALL courses**



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